

IMF wants countries with big surpluses to spend more

to counteract the general air of economic uncertainty, Dr Witteveen, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, is calling on governments to combine conditional tax cuts and incomes policies. He also singled out the need for strong countries such as Japan and West Germany to increase their spending programmes.

Boost needed to halt faltering recovery

David Blake
London, Sept 26
IMF call to countries to spend more today came as a warning of the dangers of a slow recovery. Dr Witteveen, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said that the world economy was still far from a full recovery and that a boost was needed to halt the faltering recovery.

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Retire at 70 move has wide support in US

From David Cross
Washington, Sept 26

While most industrialized countries regard early retirement as a useful means of resolving their high unemployment rates, the United States is well on the way to raising the general retirement age for workers.

Last week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a Bill which would raise the age at which employers may ask their workers to retire. Only four out of 363 representatives opposed the measure.

The legislation would not force people to keep working after they were 65 if they wished to retire then and collect their pensions. It would apply to all private-sector businesses with more than 20 employees on their payroll in the Government sector, the Bill would eliminate any obligatory retirement age.

Supporters of the Bill have hailed it as a victory for civil rights among the elderly. Mr Claude Pepper, a 77-year-old Democratic representative from Florida and one of its leading sponsors said: "I've seen the end of racism and sexism in my many years here. Now we have acted against ageism."

He and his co-sponsors believe that a higher retirement age would have only a minor impact on the labour market. According to a study carried out by the Labour Department, the number of workers aged between 65 and 70, now about 1,600,000, would rise by only 200,000 if the mandatory retirement age were raised.

Nevertheless, opponents of the legislation, including the powerful National Association of Manufacturers, argue that the number of job vacancies would be reduced at a time of continuing high unemployment, that pension costs would rise and that younger workers would find it more difficult to advance.

The Administration has not yet taken a stand on the legislation, although President Carter is believed to support the elimination of compulsory retirement in principle.

Probably the most realistic assessment of the Bill has come from Mr Nelson Crutcher, chairman of the Federal Council on Aging and the President's adviser on problems of the elderly. He says the Bill is an important step in removing the popular belief that when people reach a certain age they are no longer capable of performing their jobs.

Before it can become law, the Bill will have to be approved by the Senate. That seems likely.

Leading article, page 15



Members of the Household Cavalry resting during their return from their summer camp in Pirbright, Surrey, to Hyde Park Barracks yesterday.

Israeli Army leaves Lebanon as uncertain ceasefire takes effect

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Sept 26

A week after entering Lebanon to support the Christian forces, the Israeli Army withdrew today, leaving behind a ceasefire but still uncertain battlefield.

A unique ceasefire between Israelis, Palestinians and Lebanese—sponsored by the United States—ensured that by midday the heavy artillery and most of the smaller arms used by the combatants in the area had fallen silent.

The truce came into effect at 10 pm. From the Palestinian positions near Taibe, Israeli Sherman tanks could be seen moving back into Israel. Along the road to the border village of Kfar Kila, more tanks, along with armoured personnel carriers and lorry-loads of soldiers could also be observed travelling to the Israeli border fence.

It was Mr Richard Parker, the United States Ambassador in Beirut, who told President Sadat of Lebanon that the Israeli withdrawal was a step towards a ceasefire to effect. Mr Parker, it appears, persuaded the Christian Lebanese to accept a truce after Mr Selim Hoss, his Muslim Prime Minister, had secured Palestinian agreement.

Afterwards, officially-inspired rumours in Beirut suggested that troops of the reformed Lebanese Army would be sent into the south of the country tomorrow to patrol both the Christian and Palestinian lines. But if the Lebanese do move in, they will almost certainly have to send Christian troops into the villages closest to Israel—which have been controlled by mainly Maronite forces—and Muslim soldiers into positions occupied by Palestinians and leftist Lebanese.

The total active strength of the army is believed to be no more than 1,500 men. The Israeli withdrawal clears the way for the implementation of the Chaurra agreement by which the Palestinians promised to pull back from their positions in Lebanon.

There is no sign yet that the guerrilla forces are unanimous in accepting the truce. The extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which has several hundred commandos in the south and refuses to accept the kind of peaceful settlements now advocated by the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said through a Beirut spokesman this morning that it would not necessarily accept the new agreement and would not abandon its positions.

However, the spokesman was careful not to suggest that the organization would continue fighting at present.

A PLO spokesman said that diplomatic contacts were still taking place to ensure "the territorial integrity" of Lebanon—a gentle way of saying that both Palestinian and Israeli forces would leave the immediate battle areas.

The Palestinians have for more than a fortnight had provisional plans to pull back 15 miles from their front. Their presence in the south, and then the Israelis' were a constant threat to the prestige and political strength of President Sarkis's Government. The Christian Lebanese held up the Palestinian presence as proof of the Government's impotence while leftist Muslims made the same charge when the Israelis arrived.

Ceasefires, of course, have had record in Lebanon. During the civil war, the participants proposed, and broke, 61 of them.

Besides, not all the Israeli armour left the country this morning. Late this afternoon, two Israeli tanks were still dug in on the ridge of Tel Shekka one mile inside Lebanon.

Photograph, page 6

Manchester United allowed back into Europe

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Manchester United's successful appeal against a European Football Union decision to suspend them from this season's European Cup Winners' Cup competition ended in confusion last night when the Football League's general secretary, Alan Hardaker, said that he would do all he could to prevent a London League ground staging the return leg of the match with St Etienne.

A condition of United's reinstatement is that they play the game at a neutral stadium, at least 125 miles from Manchester. Wembley Stadium has been offered as a venue. In the first leg in France 13 days ago 33 spectators were injured.

The game must be played on or before tomorrow week. No restriction has been imposed on United supporters and a Wembley spokesman said that they had no trouble on two recent occasions when the Manchester club played there.

Mr Hardaker suggested that London was the "last place" to hold the match. He said: "United have a supporters club in London and United's fans there have caused more trouble than anyone." He will suggest Newcastle or Plymouth to the League management committee, who have no jurisdiction over Wembley Stadium.

Sir Matt Busby, who led the Manchester United delegation at the appeal in Zurich, was "delighted" with the result. He said: "Justice has been done, particularly with consideration for the players." A fine of £7,500 was imposed on the club, but the European union's committee said the original decision to ban United was "too harsh".

Report, page 6

Roast quail but no garlic for Skytrain picnickers

From Michael Leapman
New York, Sept 26

The first man in the queue for the New York departure of the Laker Skytrain arrived at the airline's office on Friday evening, some 75 hours before the scheduled take-off. A teenager from California, he queued in the persistent rain for 48 hours before the airline management agreed to open the doors for him and the 345 available seats were booked. By 5.30 pm, however, five and a half hours before take-off, Laker had sold off but 24 seats.

Mr John Greenhead, Laker's New York operations manager, said he was "delighted" by the response and confident that all seats would be filled tonight.

The Laker ticket office is in Rego Park, in the borough of Queens, about halfway between Manhattan and Kennedy airport. That is itself something of a barrier, as though potential London passengers had to journey out to Croydon to buy their tickets.

The office was built in a rush and still lacks its complement of seats and carpet. Many of those waiting had to squat on the floor, but they did not seem to mind.

The New York Times today marked the inauguration of the flights with an article on what to take as a packed meal. It is by Mr Craig Claiborne, the paper's cookery writer, who has notoriously expensive tastes.

"There are few things out of any kitchen to surpass roast quail in excellence," he wrote, "and they are ideal for air travel." He recalled an exceptionally fine pair he bought at Peck's, in Milan. If that is out of the way, there is always caviar from Murry's, stuffed trout on Broadway, Cheese is also recommended, though not the high-smelling varieties. For the same reason, garlic, onions and sardines are to be avoided. "Pay strict account to the necessities of dining abroad," Mr Claiborne cautioned. "You will need plates, China or plastic? And napkins. Linen or paper? And glasses. Crystal or plastic? Don't laugh. It's an adventure."

So it is, but seeing that the aircraft do not take off from New York until 11 at night, the advice may be superfluous. More relevant would be a guide to fast food catering in Rego Park.

Mr Laker undismayed, page 2

Lower US fares approved

Washington, Sept 26.—New fares approved today by President Carter allow scheduled airlines to compete closely with the Laker Skytrain service. Until March 31 airlines will be able to charge \$256 (£147) for the round trip between London and New York. Laker's fare for the same trip is \$237 (£136).

The main difference is that passengers have to arrange their trip under the new American scheme more than 10 days before take-off. In the Laker service, they can fly on the day they buy their ticket.—Reuter.

Liberals told party is bleeding to death

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

The Liberal Party is "losing votes" every minute of every day because of the pact with Labour, the Association of Liberal Councillors warned Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, last night on the eve of his keynote speech to the Liberal Party assembly.

Mr Trevor Jones, of Dorset, leader of the association, which has 600 members, said that unless the flow of votes away from the party was halted "we will bleed to death and Callaghan has no need of a pact with a corpse".

As the Liberal councillors

were preparing their warnings, seven Liberal constituency associations met to agree on an amendment attacking the continuation of the pact which is to be debated by the assembly tomorrow.

According to Mr Michael Meadowcroft, chairman of the seven constituency associations, which will obviously be backed by the Liberal councillors, are demanding renegotiation of the pact to ensure that the party gets real concessions from the Government through incorporation of specific Liberal proposals in the parliamentary programme for next session.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Ban on cricketers 'a lock-out', QC says

By John Hennessy
Sports Editor

The administrators of Test and county cricket came in for some harsh criticism in the High Court yesterday. Among other unfattering attributes, they were accused of operating a "nineteenth-century lock-out" in their ban on players contracted to play in the Packer series in Australia this winter.

The charges came from Mr Robert Alexander, QC, who was opening the case brought by Mr Kerry Packer's organization, World Series Cricket (formerly JP Sports) on the one hand, and by three players, Tony Greig, John Snow and Michael Procter, on the other. They are seeking a ban on the ban, so to speak.

The whole of the first day was taken up by an address by Mr Alexander, and there is more to come from him today. Mr Michael Kempster, QC, leads for the defence. The case is expected to last three weeks.

Mr Alexander argued that the cricket authorities, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and International Cricket Conference (ICC), had overreacted to the plans, set up by Mr Packer's organization for matches involving about fifty cricketers this winter in Australia. They were determined to make it "tough to get back" and had set up "what can only be described as a nineteenth-century lock-out".

The players, he said, had for some time been unhappy with the administration of the game, but there was little they could do because of the absence of any representative on the controlling bodies and the lack of alternative competition.

The ban was particularly hard on two of the three players, as they had no alternative source of income from playing during the winter. John Snow was no longer able to command a Test match place and Michael Procter, came from South Africa, a country outlawed from international cricket. The ban was "illogical and dictatorial", a naked restraint of trade, accompanied by widespread inducements to breaches of contract by the players who had signed with Mr Packer.

Mr Alexander said that the average county cricketer received about £3,000 for a summer, from early April to mid-September. There were exceptions and star players would receive up to £7,500.

Yet the career of such players was relatively short, rarely extending beyond the fortieth birthday. Thus, in their early thirties they were asking: "What next?" For Test matches they received £210 a match (to be raised to £1,000 a year, largely because of the Packer stimulus). Critics and public could be "painfully cruel". And they were hopelessly ill rewarded in the English winter. They would receive £12,000 or more a season with Mr Packer.

This year an England team would be going to Pakistan. Continued on page 7, col 1

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This year an England team would be going to Pakistan. Continued on page 7, col 1

MPs 'were tainted Peachey'

MPs have called for a debate on Commons re-elected after a state by Lord Macdonald, chairman of the Property Corporation, that some had been paid retainers by the company, including car hire arrangements. Miss also referred to an agreement which Mr Macdonald is buying back Peachey for more than £25,000, a he had sold to it for £3,000 in Page 2

In bullion they

investors are investigating the theft of gold valued at £1m after a West Midlands company was offered its own bars for sale. The company, Betts, has headquarters in Birmingham and a smelting plant at Oldbury. The company's head fears for its future. Page 4

A 'rejected in US'

ing sympathy and understanding in for Ulster's Protestants and a with violence among even mil-Americans are among reasons for decline in moral and financial support for the IRA, according William Shanahan, Ulster States in Dublin. Page 2

Claims attacked

Methven, director-general of the Union of British Industry, said claims being submitted for phase 2 "ridiculously high"—averaging 10 per cent. Big unions were using "unfair" and often Page 19

Gun battle death in Soweto

A suspected terrorist was killed and two white police officers wounded in a gun battle in Dobsonville, one of the black townships in Soweto, outside Johannesburg. Police said firearms were seized from a house after the shooting. Tension continued in other black areas. Page 5

'Life' for boy, 12

A boy of 12 who was said to have attempted to have intercourse with a girl aged four was sentenced at life for Crown Court to be detained for life for manslaughter. Mr Justice Williams said, "Life" does not mean what it says. Page 4

French Socialists gain

Socialists are now the largest party of the French Senate. With their Union of the Left partners they won 46 of the 113 seats in the election. Page 4

Tory review: A revitalized 'think tank'

essential to the fortunes of a future Conservative government, Mr William Waldegrave says. Page 2

Paris: Bishop is assaulted by traditionalists

in the course of a clash in church. Page 5

IMF blessing gives shares a boost

Gifts and equities advanced sharply in the wake of favourable weekend comment by the IMF on Britain's recovery, and hopes of early stimulatory measures. The FT index added 16.6 to close at 321.3, and the pound gained 10 points against the dollar to close at \$1.7440—its highest for a year. Page 19

Leader page 15

Editorial: On the implications of the neutron bomb, from Dr Alex Perutz; on nuclear power supplies, from Mr F. J. Chapple and Mr J. Lyons. Page 15

Obituary page 17

Admiral Sir Guy Russell, The Earl of Aunfrin, from Lucie Farrer. Page 17

Features page 14, 16

Bernard Levin says: What a state to be in; Melvyn Westlake on the Third World; Part 2 of Leo Lebedev's articles on censorship. Page 14, 16

Business News pages 18-23

Financial Editor: A potent brew for securities markets; Willis Faber improves despite sterling's strength; Fisons looks for contra-cyclical earnings. Page 18-23

Rumours that Reed group may sell 'Daily Mirror'

By Sheila Black

Millionaires and newspaper proprietors who were thwarted in recent battles to gain control of Beaverbrook Newspapers and the Observer Trust may have a chance to buy the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People. Rumours that the Reed group may consider selling that division to reduce its borrowings have hardened during the past week.

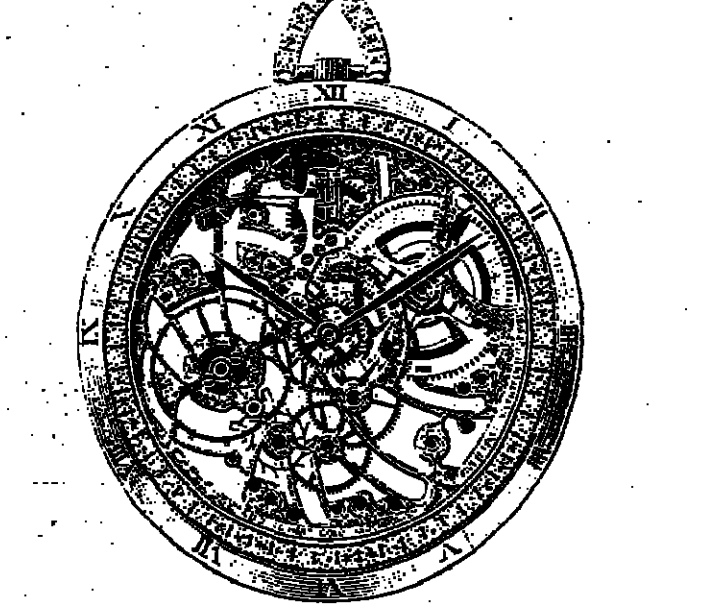
No other Fleet Street group has yet been approached, but at least two of them are making calculations in the hope that they will be. Sir James Goldsmith cannot be ruled out as a contender. The price would be

high, probably more than some Fleet Street groups could afford, especially as a fair part of it would probably have to be in cash, followed by regular cash payments over a period.

Associated Newspapers might attract less attention from the Monopolies Commission than other groups because it has no Sunday newspaper and because the Daily Mail is in a different market, and has different political loyalties.

Mr Rupert Murdoch said in America last night that it would be impossible for him to become involved since his own newspapers were in the same field.

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MPs 'had retainers from Peachey'

By Penny Symon

A statement yesterday by Lord Mails, chairman of Peachey Property - Corporation, - that some MPs, whom he refused to name, had been paid a retainer of £3,000 a year, has caused a storm of protest.

Lord Mails said the deal, made between Mr King and Sir Eric, was legitimate. "Miller is a busy Maudslayi's house," he said. "I have no doubt that the understanding was in a way to be paid for the cost of repair, for £3,000."

£60,000. Money used to fund the company was to be debated as soon as the House of Commons reassembles.

Lord Maise was appointed the company's chairman in succession to Sir Eric's elder brother, who shot dead on Thursday. Sir Eric had resigned as chairman in March.

Commenting yesterday on suggestions that during Sir Eric's tenure the company's MPs were on the company's payroll and were given the use of cars, Lord Maise said: "This has a basis of foundation, but it is not strictly correct. There was one car but this was returned several months ago."

Asked if the company had paid MPs, he said: "Some were paid a retainer for particular work in one way or another. There were no other arrangements. They could call on one if they wanted it."

He thought two MPs had used that facility, but it had been

money I have not yet trained would be spent on improvements and an agreement on water.

The agreement has important provisions. At any time we called on the house, he would £3,000 plus the amount on improvements. But exercised his option to property, he would money, plus the amount on improvements, plus since.

"In short, if he would buy it back he would pay a higher price. About four months ago he wanted to exercise his option."

The transfer should pleased Shorl, Mr. Maise said, was between £30,000 and £30,000.

"Apparently he had into some money and buy the house", Lord

Union chiefs seek legal advice

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Legal advice is to be sought by the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union about statements attributed to its former full-time president, Mr Christopher Child, who resigned last week.

Mr Samuel Maddox, general secretary, said after a meeting of the union's 18-strong executive yesterday that he had been given authority to consult a solicitor about statements allegedly made by Mr Child relating to executive members.

There was also the question he added, of removing some

His remarks led two Labour MPs to call for the matter to be investigated as soon as the House reassembles. Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for West Stirlingshire, said that he had written to Mr Foot, Leader of

the House, asking him to set up a parliamentary select committee to investigate the whole sordid business."

Mr Ronald Thomas, Labour MP for Bristol, North-west, and chairman of the sub-group, has also asked Mr Foot for a debate.

Lord Mails referred yesterday to Mr Reginald Maudsling, the former Conservative minister, who sold his country house to set up for £50,000 what was the group's first swimming pool in 1967. In return he got a 70-year lease and paid £2 a week rent. Mr Maudsling is negotiating to buy back the house, Bedwell Lodge, Essendon, Hertford-

be much higher than that.

He added that the original design of the swimming pool was proposed by Mr John Peacher, a firm of architects, it was adopted. The work was done out by another firm. It had not a car from Peacher.

In a statement yesterday John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that the family of Mr Peacher, a member had acted properly for Peacher's premises at Park West, in Edgware, London, from 1934. "A gentleman has been very quite straightforward to me personally

became president in 1969, said last night that he would act in accordance with the advice of his solicitor. There was no suggestion that the property was the union's.

"It is the union's car, although we do write them off at 5 percent a year and present the officials with them when they retire. It was at my suggestion a number of years ago that we decided to give the officials their cars when they retired. "All I want is justice for myself in a situation where I feel there has been a degree of harassment against me for some time."

Mr Child said he resigned because he was dissatisfied with the way the union was heading. The recent strike was totally unnecessary.

Liberal conference notebook, by Fred Emery

...nocracy with
the future
...rooms steam for distillation into
...Realists. Reality is somewhat
...for a start, the party does not
...drafts that people can
...political organizations proceed if
...only for the sake of organization.
...Liberals simply throw open the
...doors after leaders, everybody with
...writing papers, which do not
...always get read.

One straw rose on whether to
...to make the party articles
...tax credit scheme was, in rapid
...succession, declared a draw, then
...carried in a vote, and finally,
...much further elucidation
...heavily lost. Mary seemed non-
...plussed, as a baby cried in the
...hall, the chairman promised that
...the drafting committee would
...try to find a suitable form of
...words to keep this in "when it
...is such a conundrum."

It is at this point that the free-
...call is less democratic than it
...is. No wonder that at the
...of the party, the party's one
...resolution was 110 lines long.

Still, it was clear that the
...Liberals had enough people there
...to make a difference. The tax-credit
...schemes lively as well as earnest
...audience. There were many house-
...local authorities, and some
...students among the numbers.

The party appeal is so disparate
...that disagreement can be total and
...be the result. The tax-credit
...scheme, which is already official
...party policy, was advocated extem-
...pore, and the immediate
...populated as "utter lunacy" by
...councillor from Fareham.

energy. Here, Mr Con Alday, managing director of British

The party's core problem regarding the policy was put, inadvertently, by a young woman at the meeting. She said she was tired of discussing the sale of council houses. Why are we trying for a solution, she asked, when we are leaving ruins to be worked out by the market? The question leaves little to be decided centrally and would, as they ultimately decided, make federalists of us all.

Mrs Thatcher

From Ronald Faux

On arrival in Orkney, the first sea mine caused a stir. The arrival of Mrs Thatcher's husband in the northern islands yesterday. Her aircraft circled the islands and the airport force a landing. The first visit to the islands of the Opposition was yesterday and the husband of the Opposition leader, who she met at local authority officials' party, visited.

She also visited a silver craft

Mrs Thatcher's tour change

Is tour change

Driving licences for under 18s wrong, judge says | **Brother says tried to give escape warn**

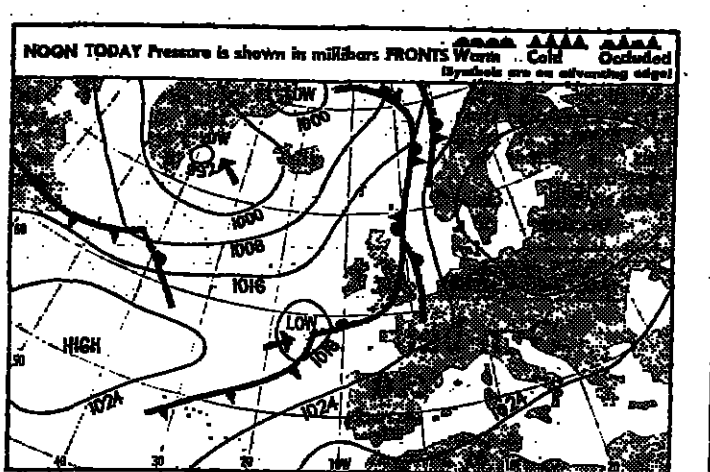
Strict security pre-
were in force at Thames
strates' Court, London
day when two Italians and
other people appear
remained in connexion
alleged \$300m interest
fraud. Last Thursday
other men, all Indians,
from the court after
remained in custody.

Robert Papalia, age
financial consultant of
Bahamas, the twin of
Papalia, who escape
yesterday that he had
on the cell door to bring
attention of the guards.

Spanish skipper fined £10,000

Serafin Carabello, aged 48, a Spanish trawler skipper, was fined £10,000 with £234 costs when he pleaded guilty at Plymouth Magistrates' Court yesterday to fishing within United Kingdom limits without a licence.

Weather forecast and recordings



Commons 'a bar to efficient government'

By Our Legal Correspondent.

Reform of the British constitutional system, possibly on the West German model, was urgently needed to reduce the burden on central government, said Lord Croomer-Hunt said in London last night.

Addressing a seminar organised by the Institute for Government, the Association for the Study of German Politics, he said there was a danger of seizing up because of over-centralization and the enormous workload on ministers since EEC membership began.

Parliament was now an obstacle to the efficient government of Britain.

No reform could be meaningful

Bank raid charge

George Davis, aged 36, was charged yesterday with a £50,000 bank robbery. He and five other men are accused of taking the money from the bank of Cyprus in Seven Sisters Road, north London, last Friday.

Scotland Yard, who named the six, said they would appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court today.

Fire officers' pay 'anomaly' claim

The Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association have submitted a pay claim to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), which calls for the rectification of a "malicious anomaly".

Chief Fire Officer Roy Barnes, the association's president, said yesterday that they were denied the pay rises of 20 per cent given to other local government employees in 1975.

W. Midlands: Lake District, central NW; central N England, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester, N. Wales, N. Scotland; S. Wales, SW England, Wales, SW Scotland, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain, drier later; max temp 15° or 16° (15° to 16°) (SEFF).

Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen: Partly bright or sunny intervals; max temp 16° or 17° (16° to 53° F).

London, S. England, S. Wales, S. Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry, bright or sunny; max temp 15° or 16° (SEFF).

Outlook: For tomorrow and Thursday: Becoming mainly dry with S with sunny spells and temp normal; Channgeable and cold on S. (SEFF).

S. Sea passage: S North Sea. Strait of Dover: Wind S, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate; S. English Channel (E): Wind S, moderate; sea: slight.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, moderate; sea: becoming variable; sea: slight.

W. MIDLAND: C. cloud: T. fair:

	C. 10	T. 10	C. 10	T. 10
Aberdeen	15	50	15	50
Birmingham	15	50	15	50
Bristol	15	50	15	50
Cardiff	15	50	15	50
Edinburgh	15	50	15	50
Glasgow	15	50	15	50
London	15	50	15	50
Manchester	15	50	15	50
Newcastle	15	50	15	50
Nottingham	15	50	15	50
Perth	15	50	15	50
Sheffield	15	50	15	50
Southampton	15	50	15	50
Stirling	15	50	15	50
Wolverhampton	15	50	15	50

HOME NEWS

£1m bullion stolen from firm of smelters

Detectives are investigating the theft of bullion valued at nearly £1m after a West Midlands company was offered its own silver bars for sale. The company, Betts and Sons, is a family firm carrying on business for more than 200 years as smelters, refiners and bullion dealers.

The management, operating from headquarters in Sharncliffe Street, Birmingham, had been uneasy for some time about discrepancies in its accounts. It suspected long-term pilfering of silver but it was not until the company was offered its own bullion that there was "positive proof" of theft.

Mr John Betts, chairman, said yesterday: "The accounts did not look right and we could not really say why. It pointed to a shortfall of some kind."

"It was a piece of good fortune when these bars came in and showed it was obviously theft. They were of a particular quality and shape and there was no shadow of doubt that they were ours."

Regional crime squad detectives and inspectors were called in to investigate the loss of more than 650 silver bars valued at £1,500 each over a period of two years, and the company's bank appointed a receiver to sort out the effects of their disappearance.

The company employs more than 100 people at its smelting plant at Oldbury, and offices in Birmingham, London and Glasgow. It has an annual turnover of about £12m.

Mr Betts said: "I think this has finished us as a family concern. We are endeavouring to keep the business going with a view to finding a purchaser."

No jobs were in jeopardy at present. All workers had been asked to continue normally.

Dead caver was investigating river mystery

Michael Nelson, aged 31, a Nottinghamshire cave diver, who was brought out dead yesterday from an underground tunnel at Ilkeston, Staffordshire, was trying to solve the mystery of the disappearance of the river Manifold, which has been puzzling people for generations.

Mr David Allison, controller of the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, said that Mr Nelson had penetrated further underground than anyone else.

The disappearance of the river has always been a big mystery in the caving world," he said. "The Manifold flows down from the Matlock Valley and then comes to a dead end, disappearing into its river bed at Wetton Mill."

It then flows three miles underground and reappears on the banks of the river Dove and joins the Dove in the grounds of Ilkeston Hall youth hostel."

Cavers believe there must be a big underground network of channels and possibly caves in the area where the river vanishes.

Mr Nelson, who lived in South Parade, Worksop, was a member of the National Cave Diving Group. He had explored the passage several times.

Moderates in the Labour Party, 1: 'Backroom boys' take initiative The infiltration of Newham, North-east

The Labour Party conference opening on October 4 is likely to involve heated debate between the right and left on both organization and policy. In the first of three articles on the moderates in the party, Ian Bradley reports on the successful reversal of the left's takeover of Mr Reg Prentice's constituency of Newham, North-east.

Most of the excitement in Labour Party politics in the past few years has come from the antics and achievements of the left. Now, however, it is the moderates who are beginning to make their mark in a determined effort to make sure that Labour sticks to its social democratic tradition.

Behind the new initiative by the moderates is a rising group of young politicians in their late thirties and early forties who are themselves backed by a team of researchers and organizers in their mid-twenties.

These "backroom boys" are common grammar school and Oxford University background which gave them their commitment to social democracy. They have all undertaken postgraduate research.

They are without doubt the sort of people who a few years ago would have been natural recruits to the left.

The most dramatic and successful operators among this rising group of Labour moderates are without doubt Mr Paul McCormick, aged 26, research fellow at Nuffield College, and Mr Julian Lewis, aged 25, a postgraduate at St Anthony's College.

It seems appropriate that their doctoral theses should be in the field of socio-legal studies and strategic studies respectively. By a combination of litigation and infiltration they have transformed the situation in Mr Prentice's constituency in the past few months, and overturned the dominance of the left there.

Mr McCormick dates his dislike of the left from his undergraduate days at Balliol, where, he says, he found himself the sole moderate in a college dominated by communists and international socialists.

Mr Lewis's battles with the left go back to his schooldays, when he stood against Mr Andrew Bevan, the Trotskyist who is now youth officer at Transport House, for the secretaryship of the debating society at Dynevor Grammar School, Swansea.

He also was at Balliol, and it was there that the two first worked together politically to prevent the Oxford University Labour Party from amalgamating with a left-wing breakaway group.

It was a visit by Mr Prentice to the Oxford University Labour Club early in 1976 that prompted Mr McCormick and Mr Lewis to involve themselves in the affairs of his constituency. They were convinced, as they still are, that the only way to beat the left is to use their tactics of infiltration and exploit the rule book.

Mr Lewis took a bed-sitter in Newham last October, and by November had got himself on the general management committee. From that base he and Mr McCormick set about reversing the left's takeover of the local party.

They started in February by obtaining a High Court ruling declaring the forthcoming annual constituency party meeting invalid. A further High Court decision in April established that the party's rule book had not been strictly adhered to, and enabled them to put 30 delegates on to the general management committee.

They then obtained yet another High Court injunction to compel an annual meeting in July, which resulted in the starting of all left-wing officers and their replacement with moderates. As Mr McCormick says: "We now effectively control the party officials."

The cost of this battle has been considerable. Legal fees alone total about £7,000. So far the courts have consistently awarded costs against the losers: Newham's former Labour Party officials and Transport House, which backed them.

But Mr McCormick and Mr Lewis have also incurred substantial costs in organizing meetings. An 85-word telegram which they sent to all 124 delegates of the constituency management committee cost them about £800.

They are reluctant to say where their money comes from, beyond the fact that they have passed the hat round among social democrats in Oxford and London.

Mr McCormick admits that their campaign in Newham has been ruthless and single-minded but it has not, he insists, involved "cheating and intimidation" which he attributes to the left.

Mr McCormick says: "The problem with most moderates" is that they are too self-effacing and reluctant to take the lead. He regards the battle as being not just against the left but against the national executive committee and the officials of Transport House.

They are unrepentant about their position as academic interlopers. Mr McCormick says: "The Labour left is now middle-class, polytechnic lecturers and other who can run rings round traditional working-class Labour supporters. We need academics on the right to provide a fair battle."

Gone are the days, it seems, when the social democratic tradition in the Labour Party was upheld by staunch working-class figures such as Ray Gunter and George Brown.

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Boy aged 12 sentenced to 'life' for girl's death

A boy aged 12 who was said to have attempted to have intercourse with Tracy Mair, aged four, shortly after having had sex lessons at school, was found guilty at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday of the manslaughter of the girl, who lived at Solway Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.

Mr Justice Willis, sentencing the boy to be detained for life, said: "At some stage you struck her with such violence that she had serious injuries from which she eventually died. You showed callousness almost beyond belief."

"The right thing for me to do is to detain you so that you can be properly looked after while you grow up to become a man. A little boy who behaves with such brutality and unkindness poses a great problem for those who have to deal with him."

"I may seem very harsh, but 'life' does not mean 'death'. When the time comes that the people who are looking after you feel you understand more about the facts of life and that it is safe for you to return home then that action can be taken."

The Home Office said the boy would probably go to a secure place in a community home. An official said: "He is too young for a detention centre or borstal. Every care will be taken to make sure the place he goes to is the right environment."

Our Legal Correspondent writes: Under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, where a child under 17 is found guilty of an offence for which if he were an adult he could be sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment or more, the court may order him to be detained for any length of time up to which an adult could be sentenced.

In cases of manslaughter, or murder, therefore, a judge may order detention for a period up to and including life, but a life sentence means only that the child is to be detained "in such a place and under such conditions as the Home Secretary directs" and he is liable to be released, in practice, at the Home Secretary's discretion.

The minister would, of course, when deciding when to release the offender, take into account all reports about his behaviour in detention and the views of his future employers.

The child might, if those are favourable, spend only a few years in detention.

Walker raises £1,000
Mr Brian Winning, aged 28, of Newton Blossomville, Buckinghamshire, arrived at Land End yesterday to raise more than £1,000 for kidney research by a nine-week walk from John O'Groats.

He undertook the journey after his wife, aged 21, died of pneumonia after a kidney transplant.

TV Times' stopped
The TV Times, due out on Thursday, will not be published because of a dispute at the printers, Eric Beattie, of Liverpool, over a wage claim by the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers.

Human bones found
Parts of a human skeleton were found on wasteland by two schoolboys in Snettistown, West Sussex, on Sunday night. Some of the bones were wrapped in plastic and police believe they may have been dumped recently.

Regional report
Ronald Faux
Kirkwall

When the wind is on the nose. It also rakes up perhaps the world's shortest flight in the world for the distance covered.

The service tests the ruggedness of the Islander aircraft. Only one strip, at Rotten Gutter, on Flotta, has a hard surface, the rest are pastures, which may be frozen, or deep in mud, or so high in water that the propeller tips cut half-moon swatches at each landing.

They are often pock-marked with cow pats that give a Logan to run spaces in between them. Any aircraft hitting them at speed is liable to be damaged.

The service began when the Orkney Islands Shipping Company agreed to pay Logan to run passengers between the islands rather than replace the Earls Thurland and Sigmund when those elderly vessels retired. The airline economy was optimistic that an Islander with water under its wings could operate profitably, and they have been proved correct.

WEST EUROPE

Union of Left makes only small gains in French Senate poll

From Ian Murray
Paris, Sept. 26
The Socialists are the strongest single party in the French Upper House as a result of yesterday's Senate elections. The Communists, too, made slight gains. Of the 113 seats contested, the Union of the Left took 46, a gain of 10.

Although it will not be known until the House meets again on October 3 what the exact composition of the Senate will be, it is clear that these gains by the Left are scarcely significant and the parties forming the Government majority will remain in control.

The likely composition of the new House (with the seats held previously shown in brackets) is: Communists 23 (20), Socialists 52 (52), Democratic Left 38 (40), Centrists 58 (57), Republican Party 56 (55), Rural Independents 15 (16), Gaullists (RPR) 34 (30), Independents 7 (11).

Elections to the Senate are held every three years and a third of the seats are contested each time. The electors are prominent local citizens—the *grands électeurs*—so their verdict is likely to be less volatile than that of seats contested as a whole. The slight swing to the left is proof of this.

Direct comparisons with previous elections are not possible because Senate membership has been increased, which has raised the number of seats contested at this time from 99 to 113. Nevertheless, the 46 seats now held by the left represents 40.6 per cent of the seats, compared with the 30 out of 99 last time, which represented 30.3 per cent.

These modest gains must be less than was hoped for by the left if it is to win next year's legislative elections, even though the Senate itself has no legislative powers. Should the left win the Senate, however, it will still be controlled by the Government majority parties, which will have delaying powers only on any measures agreed by the National Assembly.

The immediate effect of the elections is a slight Government reshuffle, since four of those elected are members of the Government and are not permitted, constitutionally, to serve both as elected representative and as ministers.

Two have said they mean to take their seats and the other two are to make up their minds. Those definitely going are M. Fourcade, Minister of Supplies, and M. Poncellet, Secretary of State for parliamentary relations.

Overall the elections seem to

France has also been a colour problem brought by African immigration. Figures at the start of the show there are now Africans and 803,966 Ali in the country.

Many of the Africans earn a living selling the pavement, adding attraction for the tourists causing growing concern French traders.

With high unemployment looking as a big threat, the Government has launched a programme to repatriate foreign workers who return home. The sign, however, that only a few will be tempted to go is an offer of a free ticket to 10,000 franc (£1,200).

The coloured immigrants often do the lower jobs, such as cleaning. While economic factors contributing to racism, the admiration of some of the more successful many Metro stores has crossed out and "Peasants" instead.

These are the sort of that led Mme Maginot to call for a referendum on the issue and now national president the Committee of Action Resistance, to declare "Nazism is ready to rise again."

Australian dissatisfaction with EEC farm policy

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Sept. 26
"Profound dissatisfaction with certain aspects" of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy was expressed here today by Mr John Howard, the newly appointed Australian minister for trade negotiations with the Nine. Mr Howard arrived in Brussels at the weekend at the start of a five-week tour of European capitals.

Speaking before talks tomorrow with Mr Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, Mr Howard said that while Australia had continued to provide an expanding market for the EEC's exports of manufactured products and capital goods, the Community market for Australian agricultural exports had "rapidly contracted to the point of disappearance."

He conceded that Australia maintained relatively high tariffs on industrial imports, so as to protect domestic industries. But he argued that in case did these amount to a "virtual embargo" on imports from other countries, whereas this was the cumulative effect of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy.

emphasize the growing of the majority of the Senate will have 189 in belonging to the "Gove" majority compared to 189 in opposition members on to 96 before. This stability, he said, was what had been imagined possible after municipal elections last.

The *grande électeurs* are typical of the French bourgeoisie and will, after the first round, vote early this month. The various parties of the left were for a gain of the Union of the Left 2, whereas the actual gain that amount. In the there has been the about unit of the left which the whole future of the in doubt.

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EST EUROPE

Britain argues tough EC line in fish dispute with Russia

In Michael Hornsby
LONDON, Sept. 26—The British Government today argued that it should not be forced to accept Soviet fishermen's demands for a break in the current fishing arrangements in the Barents Sea, which would allow them to fish in British waters for a period of two months.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that the British Government was not prepared to accept a demand for a break in the current fishing arrangements in the Barents Sea, which would allow them to fish in British waters for a period of two months.

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OVERSEAS

Build-up for decisive battle for Ogaden

Nairobi, Sept. 26—Ethiopian and Somali forces are massing at opposite ends of a strategic mountain pass for what is expected to be the decisive battle in the nine-week war in the Horn of Africa.

The armies are at the Marfa Pass which leads from the arid Ogaden region into Ethiopia's highland centre.

If the Ethiopians complete their build-up first, they are likely to launch a counter-attack into the Ogaden which has been captured by the Somalis. If the Somalis attack first they will try to storm the mountain fortress towns of Harar and Dire Dawa.

The Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) today said its forces killed 150 Ethiopians in fighting for the ancient walled city of Harar. But informed sources in Addis Ababa said that although there might be guerrilla raids in the area the town was securely in Ethiopian hands.

The Somali Republic supports the WSLF but denies that its own forces are fighting in the war.

Ethiopia is rushing newly trained militiamen and Soviet weapons to the eastern battlefront in an attempt to take the initiative from the Somalis.

The Ethiopian National Revolutionary Operations Council has ordered retired officers in Addis Ababa and surrounding districts to report by early today for immediate service.



A black policeman lies dead after being stoned and stabbed by a mob in East London on Sunday. Another policeman is helped to his feet only to die later in hospital.

Police assault on Soweto house kills suspect

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Sept. 26—A suspected terrorist was killed and two white police officers wounded in a pre-dawn gun battle in Dobsonville, one of the black townships in Soweto, outside Johannesburg. Police said firearms were seized from a house after the shooting.

According to a senior officer, security police surrounded the house at 4.45 am after information that a man with a machine-gun was there. As they closed in a burst of automatic weapon fire from the house hit a white senior officer, Major Isaac Burger, in the arm and hip. A white constable was also hit but his wounds were described as slight.

The senior officer said the terrorist was killed when police returned fire. Two men, three women and three children were taken by police from the house, which is owned by a black hospital porter. His boarders include a Johannesburg journalist, a teacher and a nurse, all black.

General Ceter Prinsloo, the Police Commissioner, said "security police had gone to the house to investigate a terrorist activities."

Major Burger underwent an emergency operation and his condition was later stated to be "satisfactory."

Tension continued in black areas of South African cities after the riots in East London yesterday in which two black policemen were stoned to death by youths returning from the funeral of the black leader, Mr. Steve Biko. A police spokesman disclosed that after being stoned by the mob the two policemen were stabbed. Later, shops were looted and cars burnt.

Mrs. Helen Suzman, MP for the opposition Progressive Federal Party, has called for investigation of allegations that the authorities deliberately prevented thousands of people who wanted to travel from Soweto to King William's Town from boarding special buses for the 300-mile journey.

Senior police officers have declined to comment on the claim by Dr. Nkhato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto "Committee of Ten", that police action preventing the buses' departure was "an unprovoked display of naked power, racism and brutality."

The doctor, who said at the funeral that he had treated 30 people for cracked skulls, cuts and bruises, alleged that many girls had been raped during the Soweto incidents on Friday night.

A complaint against the police has also been made by the Bishop of Lesotho, the Right Rev. Desmond Tutu, whose wife says she was beaten with a sjambok (a rhino-hide whip) while trying to board a bus for the funeral.

A black youth was shot dead when police opened fire this morning on rioters at Dimbaza, near King William's Town, where Mr. Biko's funeral was held yesterday. The police said they fired to prevent the youths damaging factories after setting fire to the offices of the Eastern Bank Administration Board.

There were also violent demonstrations at the township of Ginsberg, home of Mr. Biko's family, which is near by. Police used tear gas to break up gangs of youths, some of whom attacked the house of a black policeman.

In Port Elizabeth it was reported that Mr. Maki Cekiso, a detainee who is the district president of the Black Peoples Convention in Port Elizabeth, had been admitted to hospital and was in a serious condition. He was started to be unconscious after suffering recurrent fits. Mr. Cekiso had been in detention since early this month. His family have been informed of his condition on which no official comment has been made.

The present wave of unrest was caused by the death in detention on September 12 of Mr. Biko, who was honorary president of the National Black Peoples Convention. The findings of the post-mortem examination have not yet been announced but an inquest is expected to be ordered soon.

World Bank criticism of richest nations

From Frank Vogel
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Sept. 26—Mr. Robert McNamara, the President of the World Bank, today strongly criticized the world's industrial nations for failing to take action in the international trade and foreign aid areas that will ensure significant improvements in the wretched condition of the world's poorest people.

Mr. McNamara stated at the opening session of the bank's annual meeting today that 1,200 million people still lack access to safe drinking water and health care, 700 million do not have enough food and 250 million living in urban areas are inadequately housed.

He sought almost to shame the finance ministers of the industrial nations who were in the audience by outlining the details of human deprivation in the world.

"Most tragic of all, many of them (the very poorest people) are children," he said. "For of the total of 2,000 million people in developing countries, some 860 million are under the age of 15. Almost half of them suffer from some debilitating disease likely to have long-lasting effects. Well over a third of them are under-nourished."

Mr. McNamara also had sharp words for some of the leaders of the developing countries for tending to do too little to improve the condition of the poorest of their citizens.

He said the 1976 real total of official development assistance fell below the 1975 volume.

The strongest industrial nations, in fact, have produced the worst record in terms of the United Nations foreign aid target of 0.7 per cent of real gross national product. Mr. McNamara noted that the American percentage last year was a mere 0.26 per cent, while the West German level fell to 0.31 per cent from 0.4 per cent and the Japanese total declined to just 0.2 per cent from 0.4 per cent.

He said it is not just in direct foreign aid that the industrial nations must now do much more. They must ensure that there is adequate access for developing countries to capital needed to finance their payments of debts, and they must make certain that they can continue to accept a rapid rise in imports from developing countries.

Traditionalists assault bishop in Paris church

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Sept. 26—The Bishop of Strasbourg, Leon Arthur Elchinger, was assaulted by traditionalists yesterday when he tried to force his way into the Church of Saint-Sauveur in the city. The church had been occupied for half the day by 50 people when the bishop arrived.

His cloak was torn from his back in the scuffle, and he was asked and shored by the crowd. Nevertheless, he succeeded in making his way to a choir where he stood on a stool to shout above the noise at him was asking God's pardon for the scandal that they were causing. He left the church in a Red bishop's heretic shop. He asked the police to evict the traditionalists after they had had time to pray a while.

The police, however, took no action; and the traditionalists left the church after a six-hour occupation. Mr. Elchinger is considered to be an ultra-progressive within the church. He had also written a book against the appeal made in 1975 by M. Marchais, the Communist Party leader, to the Christians of France.

Traditionalists were active over the weekend elsewhere. The Abbé Ducloux-Bourgeois left the occupied Church of Saint-Nicolas de Chardonnet for the day to attend a pilgrimage in support of a banned traditionalist priest at Saint-Léger de Montbrun (Deux-Sèvres) dedicated to Saint Pius V was consecrated by the Abbé Paul Aulagnier, who is increasingly assuming the role of right-hand man for Mr. Lefebvre, the traditionalist leader.

Carter warning on A-power

From Our Correspondent
Vienna, Sept. 26—President Carter today sent a message to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), here congratulating the organization for its twentieth birthday and also warning against the use of nuclear power.

"Today, an increasing number of countries are planning to expand their nuclear power programmes," he said. "With this expansion, the potential for misuse also expands."

Delegates from 110 countries and international organizations are attending the twenty-first regular session of the agency, which is to last until Friday. It will provide an interesting preliminary forum for an international conference in Washington next month called by Mr. Carter to consider the present and future needs of nuclear energy and to tackle the problems it may cause.

Exodus of whites from Rhodesia unchecked

Salisbury, Sept. 26—Rhodesia's white population is dwindling fast, official figures showed today. The Central Statistical Office reported that 1,568 Europeans had left Rhodesia in August and only 538 arrived.

The figures indicate that so far in 1977 the white population has been shrinking at an annual rate of about 9,000. At that rate, there would be no whites left by the year 2006. Rhodesia has 265,000 whites and 6,500,000 blacks.

With guerrilla war and economic troubles, August saw the second largest drain of any one month since Mr. Ian Smith's Government unilaterally declared independence from Britain in November 1965. The largest was in May, when 1,754 whites left.

In the eight months of this year, 11,685 Europeans have left and 3,972 have arrived. Births in the white population outnumber deaths by about 2,000 a year.

The white exodus shows no sign of slowing as Rhodesia moves towards an uncertain future. It is generally accepted here that only an end to the war between the white government and black nationalists seeking majority rule could stem the flow.

The exodus has steadily increased since 1975 when intelligence reports indicated that only 90 or so guerrillas were operating in the country. Since then, the number of guerrillas has risen to 3,600.

The military command today reported 18 war deaths, consisting of 10 black guerrillas, four black civilians aiding guerrillas and four black civilians "ambushed by terrorists."

A communiqué said one of the 10 guerrillas was a "detachment security officer". Reuters, AP and UPI.

Dr Owen explains plan at UN

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Sept. 26—Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, arrived here last night, and today began talks with foreign ministers and representatives at the United Nations about the British initiative on Rhodesia.

Mr. Richard, the British representative, has made a formal request for a meeting of the Security Council, which he hopes will approve the appointment of a United Nations representative to help the transfer to majority rule. The meeting is expected to be held on Wednesday or Thursday.

The appointment of a United Nations representative is an important element in the Anglo-American plan. African states supporting the Rhodesian guerrilla movements have had their doubts about it.

Pretoria talks on Namibia adjourn without accord

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Sept. 26—South Africa has not agreed to withdraw its security forces from Namibia, (South-West Africa), Mr. R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, said in a television interview tonight.

He was commenting on the adjournment after four days of talks with envoys of five Western nations on the future of the territory. The talks ended in Pretoria today, apparently without agreement.

Mr. Botha said: "South Africa has not agreed to anything that would jeopardize the maintenance of law and order of the safety and security of the territory."

He declined further comment on the outcome of the negotiations, saying that the Western envoys were reporting to their Governments. He assumed that they would later report their reactions to Pretoria.

The talks, which have been marked by frank exchanges, have been near collapse more than once since last Thursday over the issue of the presence of South African troops in the territory.

South African ministers have reiterated their Government's stand that it will not abandon South-West Africa and its people to "chaos", but will be prepared to withdraw its forces when there is no longer a threat to law and order.

Mr. Vorster, the Prime Minister, took the chair at a one-hour session this afternoon. It was the first time he had taken part in the present round of talks.

In a gloomy commentary on the state of the negotiations, saying that the Western envoys were reporting to their Governments. He assumed that they would later report their reactions to Pretoria.

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Dr Schleyer on boat in Holland

Amsterdam, Sept. 26—Dr. Janne-Martha Schleyer, the kidnapped West German industrialist, is being held on a boat somewhere in Holland, a leading Dutch newspaper reported today.

The Amsterdam daily *De Persgroep* said Dutch marines, soldiers and police had started a search for the vessel. It said the West German Government had informed the Dutch Cabinet last Saturday that Dr. Schleyer, who is 62, was being held by four members of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group on board a boat in Holland.

A Justice Ministry spokesman in The Hague said in answer to questions about the *De Persgroep* story: "As is usual, we do not comment on newspaper reports."

Dr. Schleyer, president of the West German employers' federation, was abducted on September 5 in a Cologne street by a gunman in a black car which his chauffeur and three bodyguards were killed.

His kidnappers have demanded that the West German Government free 11 anarchists from prison. —Reuters.

German ban proposed on three groups

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Sept. 26—The Christian Democrats, West Germany's conservative opposition, announced today that they will attempt to have three communist splinter parties outlawed by the Constitutional Court.

Herr Ernst Albrecht, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, said that the proposal would be made on the grounds that the three parties use violence to gain their political ends.

The three—the Communist Federation of Germany, the Communist Party of Germany and the Communist Party of Germany (Marxist-Leninist)—have been held responsible for much of the violence during protests at nuclear power stations. Herr Albrecht said he did not rule out talks between them and terrorist groups.

The groups are to the left of the much bigger orthodox West German Communist Party (DKP) which was formed in 1968 and has about 47,000 members. Its predecessor was outlawed in 1956 for having aims that violated the constitution.

The Christian Democrats plan to put their proposal to the Bundestag (Upper House of Parliament), where they have a majority and which has the power to refer the case to the Constitutional Court.

Herr Klaus Böhling, spokesman for the Social Democrat-Free Democrat Government, said that the idea contained more disadvantages than advantages, but did not elaborate.

Western heads visited by Mr Brzezinski

Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's special adviser on national security, arrived in London yesterday for what a British spokesman called "a general review of international developments."

Mr. Brzezinski, who earlier had talks in Paris with President Giscard d'Estaing, will go to Bonn after meeting Mr. Collomb.

No details have been given of the nature or subject of the talks. —Agence France-Press.

Mr Bhutto's counsel fears quick trial and execution

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Sept. 26—Counsel for Mr. Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, told the Supreme Court today that there was general apprehension that the military regime might sentence and execute Mr. Bhutto hurriedly after what he described as a farce of a trial by a military court.

Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, former Attorney-General under Mr. Bhutto, challenged the Army's right to detain Mr. Bhutto under a martial-law order and try him by court martial for alleged corruption during his five and a half years in office.

The court expressed the hope that no overnight execution would take place and Mr. Shariuddin Firkada, the Attorney-General, said the worry was unfounded.

However, Mr. A. K. Brohi, special counsel for the Government, admitted that Mr. Bhutto and the 10 Government and Party colleagues arrested with him would be put on trial as soon as investigations into allegations against them were finished.

While arguments on the petition against detention of Mr. Bhutto and the 10 will be resumed on Saturday, the Government has decided to bring to Lahore all detainees who were not present in the Supreme Court today, to allow them to consult their lawyers.

Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto was also permitted to visit her husband in jail at Lahore.

Mr. Bhutto has been lodged in Lahore jail where he has appeared during the past three days in half a dozen police cases against him for alleged crimes ranging from murder and contempt of court to misappropriation of Government funds and property during his period in office, which ended on July 5 with the military takeover.

World chess date

Amsterdam, Sept. 26—The final match to find a challenger to Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, will start on November 15 in either Dubrovnik or Belgrade, the International Chess Federation announced here today. It is between Viktor Korchnoi and Boris Spassky. —Reuters.

Basilica ceremony for Pope on his 80th birthday

Rome, Sept. 26—The Pope, looking ruddy but smiling happily, inaugurated a huge bronze door in the Vatican City Basilica in a brief ceremony tonight in his eightieth birthday. It was the only public event the Pope had authorized for his birthday today, which he spent in work and prayer as good wishes flowed in from all over the world.

The 12-ton bronze door, 22ft high and 13ft wide, has been installed at one of the main entrances to the Vatican City. The Pope, who suffers from arthritis in his right knee, was driven by car to the Basilica from his nearby residence.

About 20 guests cheered and applauded the Pope as he sprinkled the door with holy water.

Among tributes received at the Vatican today was a telegram from Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, who thanked the Pope for his "tireless work for peace and understanding among the people of the world."

Dr. Waldheim recalled the Pope when he spoke to the General Assembly in 1965.

"It was an expression of his overriding concern for the achievement of world peace for which he has been working tirelessly throughout a highly distinguished and remarkable life," Dr. Waldheim said.

President Carter sent a message congratulating his "warmest congratulations and praising papal efforts to 'build a more peaceful world' and 'to pursue peace for all'."

Women priests obstacle to unity, Russians say

Moscow, Sept. 26—The Russian Orthodox Church today reiterated its opposition to the ordination of women priests, calling the idea "an insurmountable obstacle" to moves towards unity with the Anglican Church.

The statement came in a communiqué summing up the results of talks in Moscow over the past few days between the Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan, and Patriarch Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

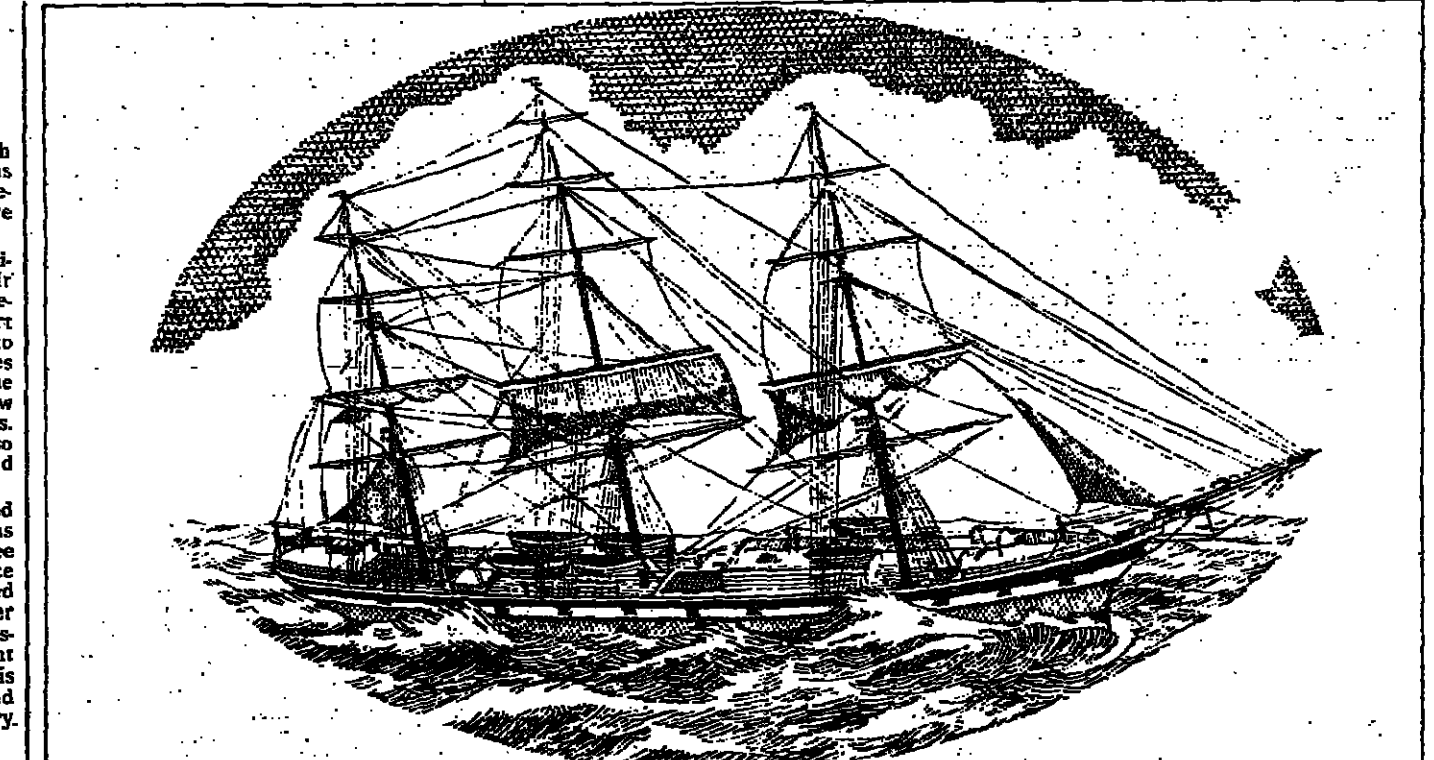
It said the two churches had made a successful advance in the dialogue on a number of questions in discussions aimed at closer relations and ultimate unity.

But the communiqué then echoed the view expressed yesterday when he told a packed cathedral congregation that the ordination of women was "completely impermissible."

"According to the Orthodox, the ordination of women to the priesthood in some provinces of the Anglican communion was an insurmountable obstacle to the aims of this dialogue," the communiqué said.

Dr. Coggan, head of the world's 65 million Anglicans, is a supporter of the ordination of women.

The communiqué referred to the "brotherly atmosphere" of the conversations and said the two sides agreed on the necessity of developing further the relations between the two churches. They also agreed that the safeguarding of human rights was a proper concern for the churches. —Reuters.



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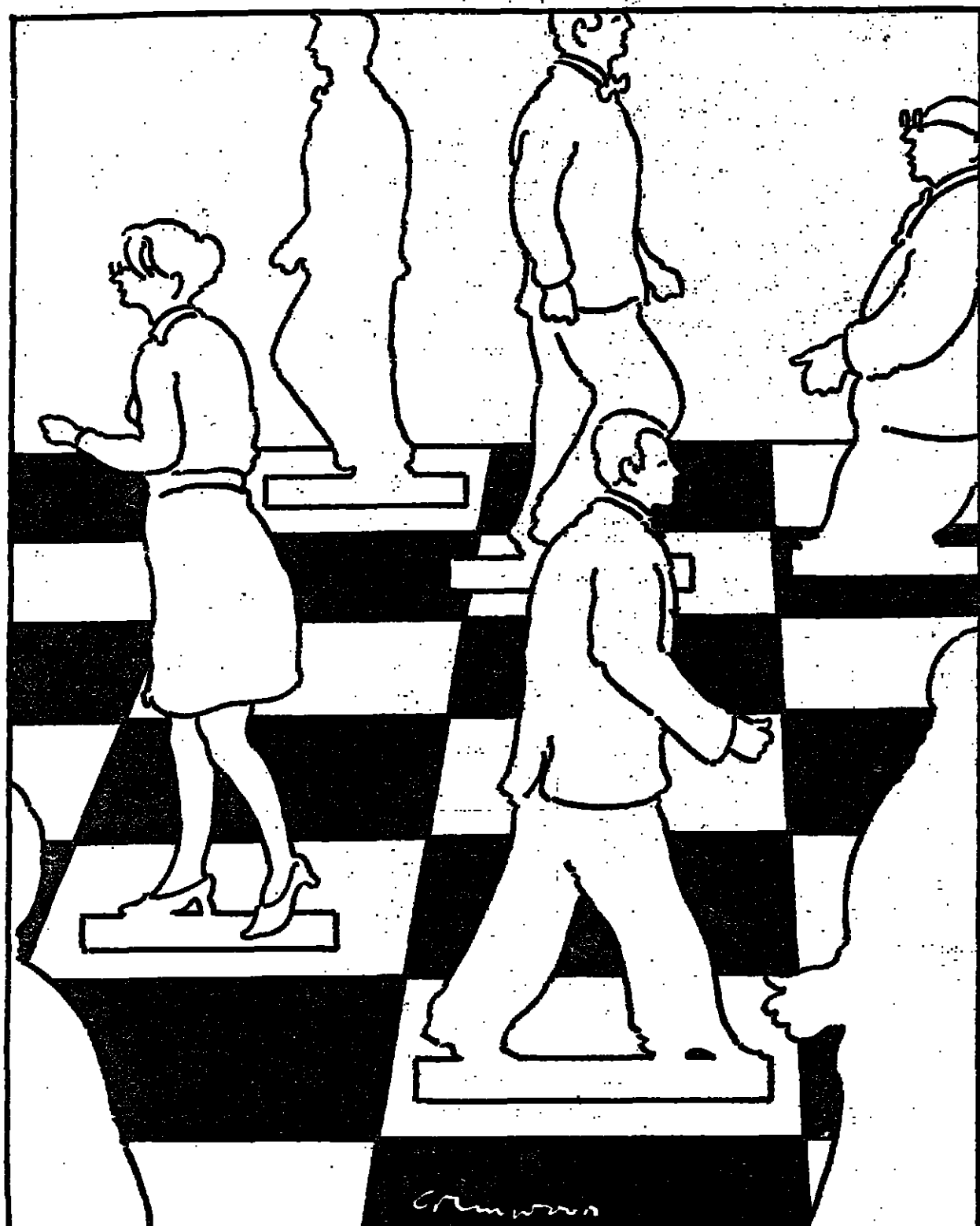
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The Gun is a smallish pub in an East End market street. Des Coates, the governor, has been in charge for 11½ years.

He rises each day at 7.00 am and creeps downstairs to let the cleaner in - when the cleaner shows up.

Then he wakes his wife Valerie, his son Mark (10½), and his daughter Julia (8) with a cup of tea.

After breakfast he drives the children to school.

By 9.30 he has given the cellar a sweep out and he's on to cashing up the previous day's takings. (There used to be a good deal to do in the cellar but nowadays it's down to a once-a-week pipe clean, which Des does with his automatic pipe cleaning machine.)

At 10.30 Kit, the lunchtime barmaid, arrives. She and Val go through the place in the wake of the cleaner checking the toilets, polishing, dusting and arranging flowers.

Meanwhile, Des re-stocks the shelves.

Opening time is 11.00 and during the week trade starts slowly. Val and Des both work in the bar along with Kit.

Most of the people who come in are shoppers and stallholders from the market. Des is on Christian name terms with 90% of them.

Business builds up steadily, and when the doors close at 2.30 pm there are plenty of glasses to wash and ashtrays to clean.

At 3.00 they go upstairs for their lunch. At half-past, Val drives off to collect the children from school. Des puts his feet up for an hour and a half until opening time at 5.00.

Until 7.30 things are usually pretty brisk then there's a bit of a lull. From 9.00 the party really gets going.

The regulars come in and their favourite drinks arrive on the bar virtually unasked for.

If you drop in be careful where you sit. You'll notice a chilly draught if you happen to be in somebody's favourite chair. But elsewhere there's a distinct warmth.

The atmosphere isn't exactly like a party in a neighbour's front room. Or a club. Or any other pub, for that matter.

It isn't what it used to be either. A lot of the old East End characters have died and the world they inhabited is fading.

Old Nell has gone. They made her a cake with fifty minia-

ture Guinness bottles on it to mark her 50th wedding anniversary. That night they had one of the many really memorable parties at The Gun.

Next day Nell came in and said she'd miscounted. It was only her 49th anniversary, so they could have another do next year.

Old Bill can't play the spoons any more because he's got arthritis in his fingers.

But there's a piano in the bar and quite often they have music and a sing-song.

They have a darts team that plays friendly matches during the winter months. Just for fun. Nobody gets desperately competitive. Saveloys and pease pud in the bar.

Des arranges outings for the men to Goodwood and The Derby. Val consoles the wives back at The Gun.

But everybody enjoys the annual night out which is financed by a levy on the football pontoon money.

They hire a hall and disco and they drink and dance all night with free beer and free food.

They know how to have a good time at The Gun. But things rarely get out of hand. In his time there Des has only had to put three people out for misbehaving. Although he admits to asking quite a few to leave because they insisted on using bad language in a high voice. He doesn't like people who swear in front of Val.

When 'time' is called at 11.00 quite often the party is in full swing, and sometimes when it's just a group of their friends, Val and Des shut the doors and the drinks are on them. (To avoid confusion they tell the local police what's going on. Otherwise they could stand accused of serving drinks after hours.)

In any event, after everyone has gone they clear up and have their evening meal.

And so to bed about 1.00 am.

A long day, and if you worked out the hourly rate you'd wonder why anybody wanted the job.

Des and Val like it because they're their own boss and because they work among their friends.

Also, they've created something personal and unique - The Gun.

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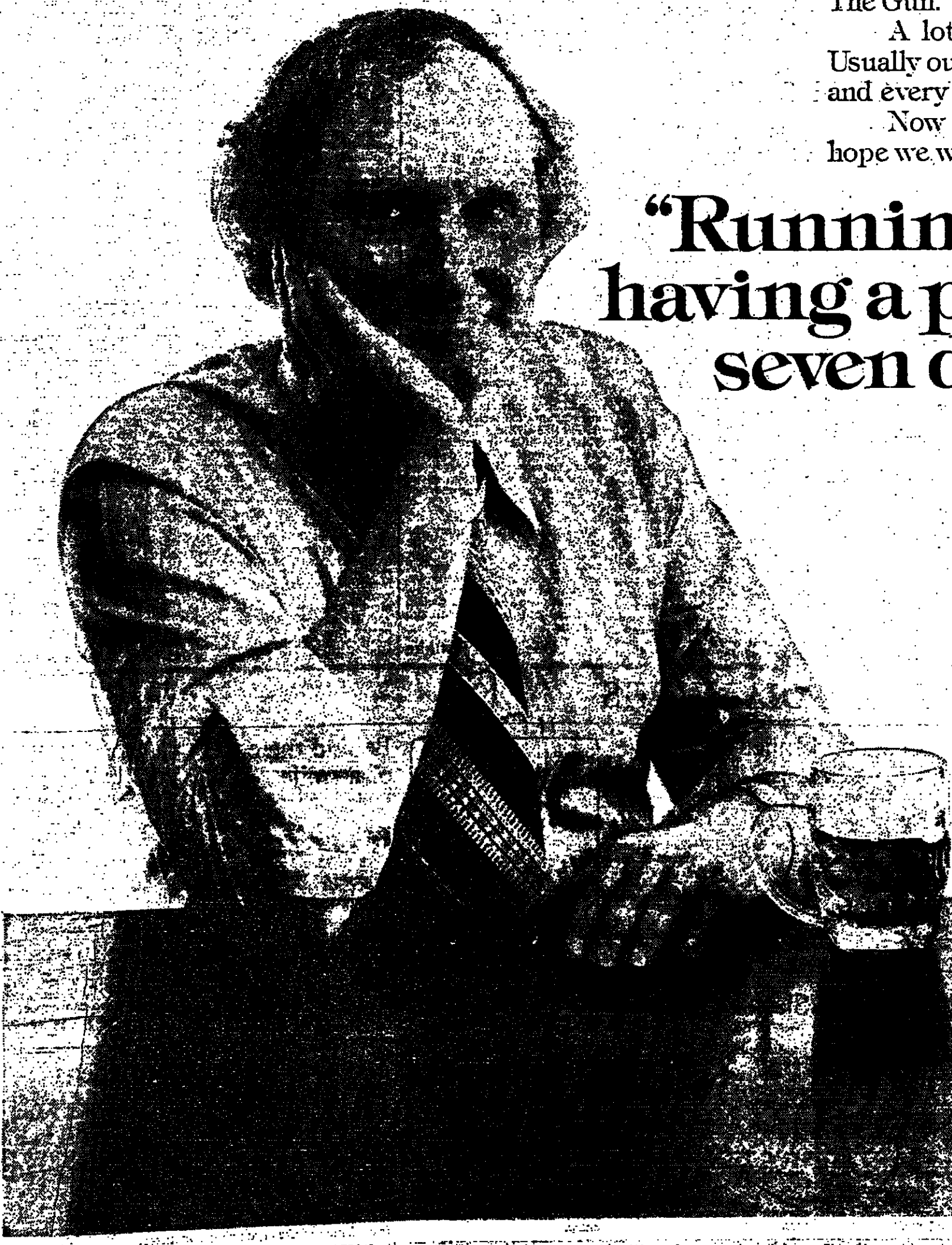
Now we've told them how hard they'll have to work, we hope we won't have to disappoint so many.

"Running a pub is like having a party in your house seven days a week."

Des Coates, The Gun, Hackney, East London.



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Dr Savimbi: the Angolan giant who believes time is on his side



The first impression of Jonas Savimbi is one of formidable strength. In his well-pressed jungle green uniform he looks, physically, even bigger than he really is, and when he talks it is easy to understand how he has captured and held the imagination and the loyalty of the 15,000 guerrilla fighters who make up his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola—Unita. He and his followers have been fighting against President Neto's Marxist government for nearly two years, and he believes that, sooner or later, the MPLA—the ruling party—will have to negotiate with him. He does not dissent from the judgment that he is too weak to bring down the government, but he insists that he is too strong to be ignored. He believes that he has the support of the majority of the people of Angola and that President Neto survives for one reason alone—the presence in Angola of 15,000 Cuban troops.

Whatever may be the judgment of Savimbi's aims and his ability to achieve them, it is, I think, important that it is only as the undisputed leader of the Ovimbundu, the largest single tribe in Angola, his voice should be listened to. It is not the voice of a man dedicated to violence for its own sake. He is, he insists, willing to discuss with the MPLA the future of Angola—but on one essential condition—that all Cuban troops should be withdrawn from Angola.

As he explains the situation on his operational map, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that, without the Cuban mercenaries, the government would be unable to resist Unita; and that therefore the possibility

that Neto might agree to this condition is extremely remote. Savimbi claims to control, to a greater or lesser extent, much of Angola south of the eleventh parallel. The traditionally Ovimbundu province of Cuango-Kunbango, in the south-east, he regards as completely "liberated"—Unita forces travel about the area freely and government troops do not even attempt to enter it. He admits that he is unable to dominate the western urban areas around Serpa Pinto, Bié and Huambo where nearly 2,000,000 of Angola's 6,000,000 people live; but outside the main towns, which are permanently garrisoned by Cuban troops, he insists that his guerrilla fighters can move virtually unhindered, and that Unita schools, clinics and cooperative industries operate openly and freely. Confronted with the suggestion that he tends to exaggerate the extent of his control, Savimbi's reaction is to invite anyone who really believes that to come into "his" area and see what happens.

His immediate military aims are realistically directed towards consolidating and improving his negotiating position rather than seeking a formal military confrontation with the MPLA and its Cuban mercenaries. His troops have established a strong base near the port of Lobito and he says that his forces can move in and out of the town almost as will. In the east of the country he claims to control a long stretch of the border with Zambia and his plan is to push north into the rich diamond-mining area near the north-eastern border with Zaire. Unita forces claim to have made the main railway between Benguela and Zaire unusable by the government, ex-

'Cubans are training Rhodesian guerrillas'

Direct Cuban intervention in Rhodesia is inevitable if a peaceful transition to majority rule is not achieved soon, according to Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the Unita guerrillas in Angola. He told The Times yesterday that without outside help, the "liberation armies" of Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe would be unable to defeat Mr Ian Smith's security forces.

I met Dr Savimbi, who has been fighting in Angola for more than 10 years, in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, in a "safe house" guarded by a company of Senegalese troops. He had come direct from talks with President Sankara, on the early stages of one of his rare excursions outside Angola—the first for two years. He is seeking support for the Unita cause among his friends in black Africa, and the President of Senegal has offered to act as a "bridge" in his discussions with other African leaders.

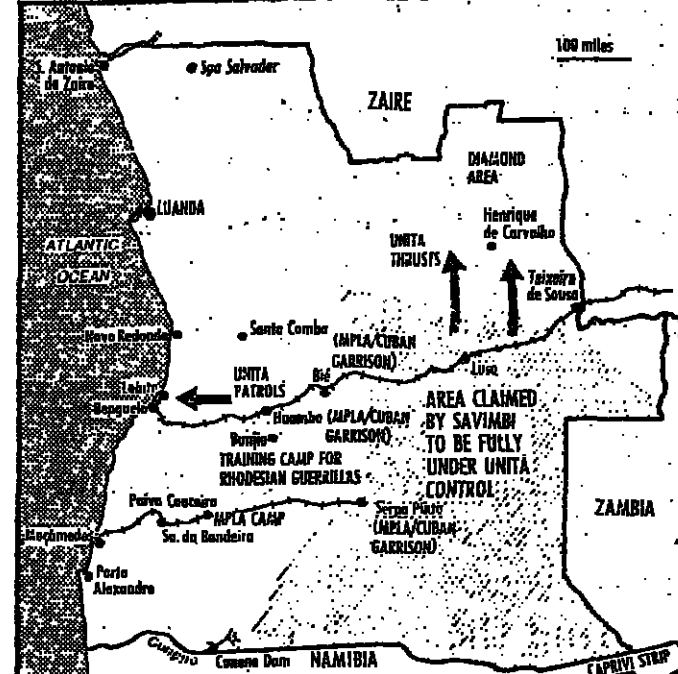
Dr Savimbi says that Cubans are already training large numbers of Mr Nkomo's men at a base near Banjul, about 100 kilometres south of Luanda in central Angola. The Patriotic Front recruits are flown into an airfield at Govi, a few miles from the training camp. The airfield was built originally by the Lobito Mineral Company. Unita forces estimate that in May this year there were as many as 1,300 men in training.

Dr Savimbi believes that British involvement in Rhodesia has improved the chances of achieving a peaceful settlement, but that if Mr Smith refuses to accept the Anglo-American plan there will be a long period of guerrilla warfare. These views, he says, Cuban support will be essential if the guerrilla forces are to have any chance of success.

cept for short periods and over limited distances.

Savimbi believes that eventually he will be able to establish an effective government over what he regards as Unita territory—although he recognizes that he could not realistically expect to achieve this for several years. Although his followers often refer to their operational area as The Black African Socialist Republic of Angola, Savimbi rejects any idea of a political solution based on partition of the country. His aim is a united, non-Marxist socialist republic, in which he does not

rule out the participation of all three political parties—his own Unita, the ruling MPLA and Holden Roberto's FNLA. His determination to expel the Cubans from Angola does not extend to a general rejection of Soviet influence in his country. Cubans, he points out, are killing Angolans—Russians are not—and in his view the Soviet Union has every right to pursue its foreign policies by peaceful means. What he is determined to prevent is the further development of Angola as a Soviet base. Although it is difficult to see



how Neto's avowed Marxist-Leninist ideology can ever be reconciled with Savimbi's concept of a social-democratic mixed economy, it is not easy to reject the general philosophy on which the Unita struggle is based. "I am not," Savimbi says, "an intellectual. I am a peasant who has learnt about politics by fighting for his country's freedom." His analysis, however, is lucid and articulate. He proceeds from the assumption that communist imperialism is a greater long-term danger to Africa than white minority governments. He nevertheless rejects utterly the policies of Smith and Vorster in Rhodesia and South Africa. These, he insists, must be changed, but not to make way for larger injustices.

He believes that the Russian intervention in Angola was a turning point in great power politics, and that the Soviet Union, having recognized the strategic importance of its success, is seeking to consolidate it throughout Africa. Savimbi goes as far as to claim that the situation in the Horn of Africa would not have arisen had the West stood firm in Angola.

Further, he says, if the crisis in Southern Africa integrates into open war, it will spread throughout the continent and possibly even beyond. The result of all this, he claims, is that the security of the world will be fatally undermined.

Savimbi is, however, no uncritical or doctrinaire admirer of the West. He deplores the persistent inability of western politicians and leaders to recognize the fundamental difference between the psychological attitudes of African and European people—especially in their concept of political leader-

ship. Furthermore he believes that to most Africans, such concepts as Marxism and Leninism are either incomprehensible or irrelevant. His conviction is that African problems can be solved only by Africans—although he concedes that any solution of the Rhodesia problem requires an unequivocal British involvement. Although he is a committed socialist, his political thinking and intellectual method bears the unmistakable hallmarks of a reasonable and tolerant liberalism—a legacy of his education in western Europe. Clearly, too, he has a genuine revulsion from the kind of violence into which he claims he is forced by the imposition upon his people of an unwanted regime supported by foreign troops.

Jonas Savimbi has no illusions about the magnitude of the task he has undertaken. He knows that he cannot defeat the government of the MPLA by military means alone. He realizes that he has been, for all practical purposes, abandoned by the West. He believes, however, that time is on his side. He refuses to believe that President Neto can remain indefinitely in power, sustained by Cuban troops in the face of a guerrilla campaign of growing momentum. "I am 43 years old," he says, "and I can wait."

The struggle in Angola may be long, and Jonas Savimbi may have to wait for many years, but so long as he is at the head of Unita no one can say that the African revolution has been totally abandoned to the rapidly advancing tide of communism in Africa.

Lord Chalfont

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Bernard Levin What a state we are all in

There are some headlines that recur with such depressing regularity that newspapers could save themselves a lot of money by simply keeping them in type. "Pound hits new low"; "Healey sees light at the end of the tunnel"; "Raj fares to rise"; "Sir Harold: 'It was nothing to do with me'".

We all have our favourites, no doubt; mine appeared in the Observer last Sunday, and I pasted it into the scrapbook which already contained its 5,764 identical predecessors. For the 5,765th time, then: "Disputes put Leyland future in jeopardy."

Ah, disputes, disputes, you naughty tease, you! You don't really put Leyland future in jeopardy, do you? You're just trying to upset Nanny, aren't you, you naughty disputes! Now come and have your tea, and we'll say no more about it.

I sometimes wonder what sort of a country this would be, and in particular what its economic conditions would be like, if disputes really did put Leyland future in jeopardy. After all, the chief reason for disputes at Leyland is that the disputants know perfectly well that they do not put Leyland future in jeopardy, or indeed in anything other than an ongoing non-profitable situation.

And for all ongoing non-profitable situations there is of course, a way out: "the Government" will pay. Nor will it merely pay; it will take care of all the problems caused by the ongoingness and non-profitability of the situation.

If you want a single symbol of what it is to be a citizen of this country, you have managed to convince themselves that there is a force at large in the universe, the purpose of which is to do for them everything they do not wish to do, and that to set it in motion on their behalf they only have to indicate their wishes to the representatives of that force. I can provide it from a story that—highly, dare say—was not considered of sufficient significance to warrant a Leyland-sized headline, or indeed anything but an inch and a half of small type towards the bottom of a column on the left-hand side of the inside page, under the demeaning caption "In brief":

A group of women and children marched to Downing Street yesterday to present a 200-signature petition demanding that the Government should move them from the Arndale estate in Wandsworth, where they allege everyone is frightened of being attacked.

It is, of course, a very unpleasant thing to be attacked, and not much less so, I suppose, to be in constant fear of being attacked, but I cannot help wondering exactly what—or even approximately what—goes on in the heads of people who, faced with this unpleasantness, "demand that the Government should move them". In this matter, and for all I know in others, the unfortunate inhabitants of the Arndale estate in Wandsworth share the outlook of the Leyland dispute-makers: their creed begins: "I believe in the Government, maker of heaven and earth."

But what do they—Leylanders and Arndalers alike—imagine that "the Government" is a democracy is? Who do they suppose it is who is going to come and improve their lot? Or to keep Leyland from its richly and repeatedly earned extinction, and to move people who do not like the neighbourhood in which they live? It is the people of this country, is it not, including the Leyland One Hundred and Ninety Nine and the Arndale Two Hundred themselves, who, for this particular purpose and an uncountable number of similar ones, constitute "the Government".

At any rate, it is certainly the people's money that is going to pay for such projects. Yet the idea that there is an inexhaustible supply of money available from "the Government" is even more widespread than the comforting notion that "the Government" itself is an entirely detached body, not connected in any way

with the country as a whole, alone with any individual citizen.

This belief has got into circulation, of course, because governments have for so long behaved as though it is. Nothing could better represent the way in which the not have infected our politics than the revealing language used by Chancellors of Exchequer in presenting a budget, and other financial statements: "I can afford to be a little more generous, year," they say, assuming that the taxpayers are going to be allowed to keep slightly more of the money they've earned; or "Now I come to consider..." at which point small diminution in the ming of the public is an act of charity, not to be taken a precedent; or even "This cost £200m in a full year when we are carrying no expenditure but to a lower of some import."

And where the wolves have led, the sheep have followed. The growing dependence of citizens of a free country on the collective State is enough; what is worse is that they are reflecting on them to see anything other than the State ought to provide every individual an aid or basic need, including the individual's income represent, in effect, a pocket-money, I can recall public comment anywhere other than a single article in the Times, that for decades ago a proposal to induce cannibalism as national religion would have seemed more outrageous or bizarre.

Disputes put Leyland future in jeopardy. But disputes no such thing, do they? They are a constant companion, able to operate as long as its net income is greater than its costs, disputes would indeed put its future jeopardy. That might not be enough to stop the disputes, but it would be a serious recession between cause and effect, would be obvious to every concerned. But everyone Leyland knows very well "the Government" will go paying, either with our or with imaginary money, more likely with the latter, with both, to keep the p. open; whether there are p. or not, and for that matter whether anybody in this or other country wants to buy goods they produce or not.

What is more, the situation is more ongoing than that suggests, because a time (about once every day or so) Mr Varley suggests that disputes put Leyland future in jeopardy, though engaged in the disputes on that nothing actually happens, though they have stopped disputing. I should think that by now Mr Varley would only be able to get as far as the future he they stop listening to him, after another couple of days, the road would be wide open for him to get as far as the Leyland.

It is no use saying that it will one day come a big straw which, laid upon back of that poor spavined camel, the public will break the back of its pain. The march of those who w the Government to move them should be sufficient reassurance that expectation has now come the chief characteristic of the public's attitude to representatives and even to most monstrous actions. This is, and will be, no line of amount of our money that we will spend, as that people will want it, spend, in ensuring that it does not put Leyland future in jeopardy. I dare say headline will continue to appear, but there will be no more of it. The march of the Arndale estate's American tourist once stop me in the street and ask whether the sign "A House" over a pub just across the road means that the light inside was given away. I say that it means no such thing, am by no means sure what ought to answer now, and all sure what I shall be answering in a few years' time.

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Can the Third World gap ever be closed?

So mesmerized have we become by the enormous problems that loom so threateningly over our fragile planet, that even the most singular achievements fail to restore a sense of proportion. This occurred last year when the average life expectancy has increased from about 40 to 50 years. Although this is still 30 per cent lower than longevity now enjoyed in the industrialized countries, it took western Europe a century to achieve what the developing nations have done in 25 years. At the same time, in spite of the increase in Third World population, there is marginally more food available today than a quarter of a century ago. Calorie consumption per head has improved in many countries, literacy has risen and many more children attend primary and secondary schools.

But still the problems of the developing nations seem far more real than their progress. Within the Third World proper, famine and disillusionment grows as distance between expectation and achievement lengthens. It was to this paradox that Mr McNamara, President of the World Bank, and former United States Defence Secretary, turned his attention yesterday when he addressed the joint annual meeting of the bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, which is being held in Washington this week.

In Mr McNamara's view, if the development effort of the past 25 years is held to have failed because it has not "closed the gap" between rich and poor nations—a gap that, at its extremes, amounts to \$8,000 a year per head—then it is because this was never a realistic objective. Given the immense differences between the capital and technological bases of the industrialized and developing countries, closing the gap is not and never was a feasible goal. Indeed in spite of the high Third World growth rates, the gap has widened rather than narrowed. Only the oil-exporting countries have managed to bring about a small reduction.

The fact is that even if the developing countries manage to double their per capita growth rate, while the industrial countries maintain their historical growth rate, it would still take a century to close the gap. The gap between the richest and poorest developing countries widened in the 1950-75 period by a factor of three.

Furthermore, the very poorest people in the Third World, numbering several hundred million, have hardly benefited at all from the economic growth of the past quarter of a century.

Even in those developing countries that have enjoyed rapid growth, the incomes of the poorest groups have generally risen only one third as fast as the national average.

This is the reason why, in the face of much scepticism and some opposition, Mr

and social environment. These gaps are already narrowing, and can be narrowed much further in a reasonable period of time.

This converges with the idea of uneven growth between groups of developing countries and between social groups within these countries. For while it is true that the Third World nations, taken together, have grown rapidly, the pattern has been far from uniform. Some 32 nations in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, with nearly half the population of the developing nations (excluding the People's Republic of China) have actually fallen further behind the main convoy of developing countries from one decade to the next. This disparity between the richest and poorest developing countries widened in the 1950-75 period by a factor of three.

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Fiery fringe at the Liberal conference

Inevitably, Brighton has changed since I was last there five years ago for a party political conference. Whereas once the Young Turks of the Conservative Party held court in the bar of the Metropole Hotel, there was yesterday simply a notice proclaiming "Firetech 77". Had I come to the wrong place? Were the Liberals holding their annual assembly in Harrogate or (worse still) Scarborough?

The doorman of the hotel advised me to "fear not" as 20 bright red fire engines screeched down Brighton's promenade, which is grandly known as Kings Road. He explained that far more important than the Joint Liberal Assembly was the International Fire Protection and Control Exhibition. All manner of fire prevention and fighting equipment was on display.

had just lit a pipeful of my favourite tobacco and was smoking like a chimney as I approached the door of the exhibition hall. My pipe was confiscated (temporarily) which was just as well as one of the displays showered hot visitors with water if they so much as lit a match near it.

Fire, or to be more precise, energy, was the main topic of yesterday's fringe meetings at the Assembly.

David Penhaligon, the Liberal MP for Truro, arrived hotfoot from Cornwall to demand of the special seminar what Liberal policy should be. He pointed out to my amazement that the amount of energy required to produce a motor car was much greater than the energy that car would use in its normal lifetime.

The highlight of the day for me was when the lovely Margaret Wingfield told me that she was again arranging a crèche for the under fives. Two registered child-minders have been engaged to look after it and the crèche is situated in the Royal Albert Hotel where is where the entire Times delegation for the Assembly is resting.

How an owl got a role in Romeo and Juliet

In Berwickshire for an autumn break, I called on and paid my respects to the veteran ornithologist Henry Douglas-Horne whose home at Greenlaw is about to be invaded by a team from the BBC's *Down Your Way*. The radio event drew from him a characteristic reminiscence.

Years ago, when he was radio's Bird Man, he tried to record a tawny owl, but even with six microphones from the BBC's outside broadcast unit, the recording disc remained hootless. Melville Davis, BBC controller in Scotland, turned up and said he wanted his OB unit back the following day.

That night, the microphones were back in the bushes. Somehow or other, the Bird Man's

brother, the playwright William Douglas-Horne, had slipped away from the group. Suddenly, a microphone picked up the clearest hoot imaginable. They could even hear its intake of breath. Mr Dinwiddie was triumphant.

The recording went into the BBC's archives, to be produced whenever Juliet went on to her balcony or Frankenstein up to his laboratory. Years later, William Douglas-Horne told the Bird Man: "You remember old bird man? The owl? Well, it was an old man."

Now, Henry Douglas-Horne has written his first book, *The Bird Man*, to be published next month by Collins. In it, he tells the tale of the owl far better than I have done.

Case of the missing children

Bernard Levin, who claims to be the world's greatest living expert on everything, says he can settle in advance the imminent controversy on whether Hans Andersen liked children and why his statue in Copenhagen shows none.

Andersen's most recent biographer, Elias Bredsdorff, sums up on the main question thus: "He liked the children with the whole of his person, but he was not the kind of joyous and playful entertainer immediately attract-

ing the children from afar that posterity (and the Danny Kaye film; my insertion) has sometimes made him out to be."

About the Copenhagen statue by Soakve, Dr Bredsdorff says that when Andersen saw the original sketches which showed him reading to a group of children, he exploded: "Nothing in their [the scriptors'] attempts indicated that they realised the character of the thing about me: that I could never read aloud if anyone was sitting behind me."

Sleeping it off

Fred Mulley, the Secretary of State for Defence who was unfortunately photographed enjoying a quiet, post-prandial doze during the RAF's Silver Jubilee fly-past in July, has unwittingly added to the vocabulary of English slang.

"I am reliably informed that 'having a Mulley' has become the favourite euphemism at the Ministry of Defence for those similarly overcome by the warmth of the mid-day radiators."

Behind the edge of a smile

The last I saw of Anne Valery she was in a punt, being swept to her doom over a weir with Alec Guinness. Much water has flowed over the weir since then, for both Miss Valery and me, and it was a nostalgic occasion when I met her the other day.

No longer is she an actress from Rank's awful charm school. She has drifted out since her uncomfortable experience with Alec Guinness in the 1949 film *Kind Hearts and Coronets* and has become a very successful writer. An intelligent one, too. There is much realism in the plays she contributes to

the *Angels* series on television. No wonder. She spends much time nursing in the wards of her father's—people's—hospitals. I have just been reading a second volume of her autobiography, *The Edge of a Smile* (Peter Owen, £5.75) which takes her up to the age of 50. She is now 50 and says she is not writing any more of her life story, but concentrates on a thriller instead.



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SEVENTY YEARS YOUNG*

It is part of the conventional wisdom that an early retirement age is one of the marks of a civilized society. Perhaps that is a natural reaction in a world where until comparatively recently the provision for most people in their retirement was rudimentary in the extreme. So in order to avoid on the one hand the indignities of charity, public or private, or on the other hand being a burden on their families many elderly people went on working long after they were fit to do so. That was humane. Old age should have its dignity and its rest. But rest is not the only thing that is required by people beyond a certain age. Many remain active, and all too often frustrated by idleness, when their years suggest that they should be content simply to draw their pension.

There has been recognized by the House of Representatives in the United States in voting overwhelmingly in favour of increasing the age at which employers can require their workers to retire involuntarily from sixty-five to seventy. To many people that will seem eccentric. Not only will the movement seem to be in the wrong direction but if this law is passed it will mean that the normal retirement age in the United States will be higher than for example, in any country of the EEC. The highest age at which the national retirement scheme comes into operation among member states of the Community is sixty-seven for men in Denmark. In Italy and France it is as low as sixty for men.

The American initiative is being taken not as an exercise in draconian economics but in

response to pressure on behalf of the elderly themselves. Mr Nelson Cruickshank, chairman of the Federal Council on Ageing and President Carter's counsellor on problems of the elderly, has said that the Bill is an important step in removing the image of ageism—a word as well as a concept that we might well do without. One of the chief sponsors of the Bill has said that it will allow elderly people who want or need to work beyond sixty-five to do so. It is this idea of a flexible retirement age that ought to be encouraged.

In Britain, as in most western countries, the normal retirement age under the national pension scheme sets the pattern throughout the country. Private occupational schemes tend to fit this pattern and it is convenient for most employers not to vary this arrangement for different members of their staff except in unusual circumstances. So a national norm becomes established. There are, it is true, some notable exceptions to it. Oil companies, for example, retire their executives earlier than the national average, generally at sixty; and the smaller the company the more likely it is that the arrangement will be flexible. But for the most part there is not enough recognition of the different needs of different occupations and different people.

There are difficulties, however, in the way of simply raising the age at which people can be compulsorily retired, as the House of Representatives now intends, especially if that leads to most people just staying on longer at their jobs. There must now be a considerable temptation for them to do so whether they

are really fit or not after the inflation that has been experienced in the past few years. Anyone whose pension is not adjusted automatically to take account of the movement of prices can hardly feel assured that he can face old age with no financial anxiety—which is why British civil servants are so widely envied and is one reason why so many other people want to keep working as long as they can.

But if too many of them do so it can block the promotion prospects of younger people and engender much frustration lower down the line. It would also be likely to make the problem of youth unemployment all the worse. That would be particularly true in Britain where there is so much job security for those in employment that the natural course for an employer who needs to reduce his workforce is not to sack the least efficient and take on as many promising young employees as he requires, but to run down gradually through retirement and natural wastage—while suspending recruitment in the meantime. That is more humane for the older worker but hard on the young person seeking his first job. It would be harder still if a great many older workers were to stay on beyond the customary retirement age. What is required therefore is the greatest possible flexibility to take account of personal circumstances and national economic conditions.

*To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old. Oliver Wendell Holmes. On the seventieth birthday of Julia Ward Howe.

THE POLISH MINISTRY OF ANTI-TRUTH

The internal documents of the Polish censorship, revealed by Mr Leo Labedz in *The Times* yesterday and today, make truly fascinating reading. In a paradoxical way they also make very encouraging reading. Of course the existence of prohibitions could be inferred by any attentive reader of the end product of the process, the official Polish press. But unless you are actually looking for references to, say, "the limitations on the freedom of action of communists in Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Libya and Syria" or "the role of Iran in the context of imperialist forces in the Persian Gulf", it might not occur to you to notice their absence. And if you did notice their absence, you might think that Polish journalists simply did not regard these subjects as very important, or that being trained as good Communists they instinctively refrained from writing on subjects which could be embarrassing to a Polish government that, for reasons of national interest, has to maintain good relations with the governments of the various Middle Eastern countries above named.

Now we know that that is not so, and that in order to keep all these distasteful subjects out of the news media the Polish government has to issue list upon list of absurdly detailed instructions to and employ a whole army of highly educated and no doubt well paid bureaucrats. One wonders how these people are recruited. No doubt they keep their own salaries as secret as everyone else's. ("The correct formulation should be 'salary to be agreed upon during the interview'"), but one can see that the attractions would not be all financial. There would also be the stimulus of the constant battle with writers and publishers who are evidently for ever finding new and unforeseen ways of embarrassing the government, whether by publishing its own statistics or spotlighting the abuses of other totalitarian

regimes of a theoretically opposite political colour. But what is so encouraging is to see that all those involved in this game, censors and censored alike, must be perfectly clear in their own minds that a game is what it is. There is no hint in these documents of any belief that what is officially printed or broadcast has anything to do with objective truth, or that what is cut out is cut out because it is false. The directives do not say "there is to be no repetition of the malicious rumour that rivers flowing from Czechoslovakia are increasingly polluted". They say "there should be no disclosure about the increasing pollution of rivers flowing from Czechoslovakia". Their authors know that those they are addressing also know what the truth is. They simply do not want it "disclosed". In other words they are peddling an ideology which has no hold over their own minds. They are salesmen who do not believe in their product.

As any capitalist could tell them, a salesman who does not believe in his product is unlikely to be a success. And so it proves. For anyone who knows Poland knows that Poles do not believe what they are told by their official media; and fortunately they do not have to, for they have other sources of information. Poles are able to travel abroad and maintain individual contacts with the West to a greater extent than any other East European nation. They are also, like other East European nations, great listeners to Radio Free Europe, in spite of the government's efforts to jam it. And more than most other European nations, East or West, they go to church—which is not of course a source of daily news but does provide an alternative and far more sincere offered view of the world than the spurious Marxist consensus to be found in the official media.

Mr Labedz contrasts "the more ham-fisted Soviet censorship"

with "its more fine-fingered Polish derivative". But the sad truth is that the Soviet version is considerably more effective, for there is almost certainly a much higher proportion of Soviet citizens who believe at least the broad message they are getting from their official media than there is in Poland or any other of the Soviet Union's East European colonies. This probably has little to do with the techniques of censorship, and much more to do with the simple fact of being colonies. It is much easier to question the credentials of a government and a social system which you know to have been imposed and kept in power by foreign troops than of one whose crimes are committed in the name of your own national pride—especially if you happen to be a citizen of a reasonably successful world power.

Moreover, the consciousness of today's young Russian is the product of two generations of almost complete isolation. Happily it is no longer possible for Russia to impose the same kind of isolation on Eastern Europe, and the period of the Cold War was not long enough to have had a decisive effect. Today's Soviet block is deeply dependent on economic exchanges with the West. This gives the West a priceless opportunity to lend moral support to the oppressed peoples of Eastern Europe. By signing the Helsinki Final Act, the Soviet Union and its satellite regimes have admitted that human rights and the free flow of information and ideas are not merely "internal affairs". They have given undertakings which they clearly do not intend to respect, but in so doing have given us the right to demand that they do respect them. This demand should be reiterated with the greatest clarity and precision at the coming Belgrade Conference. This is what the peoples of Eastern Europe will expect of us, and it is what we should demand from our own governments.

Obviously, I would not wish to speculate at this point on what sort of issue might become the key to unlocking that door. However, what I would like to point out is that Central Office might well start giving it some thought because one thing is certain—the Liberals are now well versed in the art of playing the blushing bride, both on our grass roots party and our politicians are now very wary of any liaison which is not legally binding and next time they will make very sure that both parties wear a wedding ring, albeit temporary.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID AUSTICK,
Chairman, Liberal Candidates Association, Cross Green, Orkney, West Yorkshire.

Spelling by numbers

From Mr Morley Griffith-Jones
Sir, For some months we have been moving into a period of very precise references.

A body called "NTVRO" has referred to me as 0910731106061 1123050102730002017012 and another, the "Post Office National Giro", as 5425000567A72080001P0 0014815.

Regrettably, both have misspelt my name. Let us hope that the numbers are accurate.

Yours faithfully,
MORLEY GRIFFITH-JONES,
PS What is the world population? Hembridge Bowdon, Templecombe, Somerset.

Implications of the neutron bomb

From Dr Max F. Perutz, CH, FRS
Sir, The time is imminent when President Carter will decide whether or not to authorize construction of the neutron bomb. I read with horror that the Nato allies are encouraging him to go ahead. While his decision still hangs in the balance, may I try, as several of my scientific colleagues have done before, to make the public aware of its terrible implications.

A neutron bomb is a special kind of hydrogen bomb that would exploit the fusion of two isotopes of hydrogen—an atom of deuterium and one of tritium—to generate an atom of helium and a neutron of very high energy. The result would be an explosion whose main energy goes into the production of penetrating neutrons which, in collision with other atoms, would produce even more penetrating gamma rays. Explosion of a neutron bomb with a yield of one kiloton, the smallest now envisaged, would cause immediate convulsions and collapse of anyone within about 1,000 metres of the point of detonation and therefore kill the crews of an entire army of tanks at one single blow.

At first sight this possibility makes the neutron bomb look like the perfect deterrent. But will it really make Western Europe safe from attack? Why are the 7,000 tactical nuclear warheads now held by US forces in Europe not thought to be sufficient? Those who have analysed the history of the introduction of tactical nuclear weapons into Europe have shown that the decision to do so was forced upon the American Government by the reluctance of Western European states to match the large conventional Soviet forces with conventional forces of their own. Safety was better sought in superior nuclear weaponry.

However, strategists have become doubtful about the deterrent value of these weapons, because their very destructiveness would make their use on densely populated territory politically unacceptable. The neutron bomb comes in at only 20 per cent of its energy goes into blast, so that it is less destructive than other nuclear weapons—the blast from the smallest neutron bomb now envisaged is equivalent to "only" 500 tons of TNT—and the radiation it produces is mostly short-lived so that it causes less contamination. The bomb is therefore regarded by perverse logic as "clean" and acceptable for use in defence should conventional forces fail.

This is surely a dangerous illusion. Faced with a sudden

Soviet attack, civilians would not have had time to flee. What would this "clean" bomb do to them? All those within the horizon of the point of detonation will be irradiated. Those close by will suffer something like travel sickness at first, followed after a few days by vomiting, diarrhoea, high fever, coma and death. Those a little further away will be killed within a month or so by damage mainly to their bone marrow and liver. Those further away still may be condemned to varying degrees of chronic illness. All will be liable to suffer damage to their germ-cells that could cripple generations of children not yet conceived. Is this to be regarded as acceptable damage?

The argument that the neutron bomb's possession by the Nato forces would act as a deterrent to Soviet aggression seems to me fallacious because the Soviet forces would quickly acquire their own neutron bombs, so that the bombs would deter Western defence as much as they would deter Soviet aggression. It has also been pointed out that once the nuclear threshold is crossed, a battle of neutron bombs is likely to escalate into a general nuclear war. For the weaker Nato conventional forces, the greater the pressure to bring in more nuclear weapons and the greater the likelihood that in the event of war conventional defence would fail and nuclear weapons would therefore have to be used. If Britain were willing to shoulder a greater part of Europe's defence, it might yet be possible to forestall the introduction of the neutron bomb.

Yours faithfully,
MAX F. PERUTZ,
42 Sedley Taylor Road, Cambridge, September 26.

Grunwick dispute

From the General Secretary of APEX
Sir, The suggestion in your report on September 23 that APEX is preparing for withdrawal from the Grunwick dispute is totally contrary to a statement I made to your reporter earlier last week. I then indicated that the current programme set forward by APEX and the TUC would continue until the end of the year.

There has been no pressure on the union from the Government, either directly or through the TUC, in relation to the dispute, since the Secretary of State for Employment established the court of inquiry and appealed to both sides to do nothing to prejudice the outcome of the inquiry. While it is well understood by all knowledgeable observers that Mr Grist favours the continuation of the dispute in the hope that it will affect the electoral chances of the Government, and that this is a major factor in the intransigent attitude of the company and the refusal to accept the recommendations of the court of inquiry, including its criticism of the Government, this clearly will influence our future decisions much more than any political consideration would do.

The degree of irresponsibility of

The Times in deliberately leaking the report of the court of inquiry 12 hours before it was published, and now publishing statements quite contrary to those that I have made, is appalling. The future livelihood of 91 strikers and the settlement of a year-long dispute is not a subject fit for such shabby treatment. It is time that *The Times* adopted decent publishing standards. Its record in the Grunwick dispute is, to say the least, deplorable.

Mr Robert Moss (Letters, September 17) claims that Mrs Asadi Parat testified to the Scarman inquiry that she was opposed to the reinstatement of the Grunwick strikers. This is not true.

As his memory is evidently none too clear on this matter, I would remind Mr Moss of some significant parts of Mrs Parat's evidence. Last August, when I had only 17, as Mr Moss put it, workers walked out, she signed a petition demanding union recognition. She admitted to the inquiry that her basic wage at that time was only £29 for a 35-hour week. Within the course of a year, and during the 5 per cent limit on wage increases—not only did her weekly wage rise by almost 50 per cent to £43, but she also saw fit to drop her pro-union position.

Yours faithfully,
ROY GRANTHAM,
General Secretary,
Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, 22 Worpole Road, SW19, September 23.

Policy on education

From the Chairman of Kent County Council Education Committee
Sir, Peter Hennessy's article of September 2 headed "Study of education ministry's role starts" refers to a feeling among senior officials that one effect of shirking resources could be a need for the Department of Education to play a more direct part in wider policy making and in the setting of priorities within the education system.

As the Chairman of an Education Committee which spends more than £133m a year, I see no need at all for this to happen, and I am sure that I speak for many others in the education world when I say that I would very much regret it if it did. This is not to say that the Department cannot play a valuable role in indicating what it sees as the national priorities for its overall assessment, but there are considerable dangers should it attempt to determine by specific grant or otherwise just what the priorities should be for all local authorities in any given year.

Let me take a specific case, that of in-service training. In my particular Authority we have spent over £1m in the last year on a programme to spend a good deal of money on this. It may well be right for the DES to indicate nationally that this should have a higher priority across the board, but equally it is right for us, knowing of our existing provision, to see our own priorities this year in a rather different light, perhaps the adult literacy service and the teacher/pupil ratio, to take only two examples.

Since the needs and expenditure patterns of 108 authorities have taken a different shape because of local and historical circumstances, there is no practical way in which the DES could acquire the necessary local knowledge or effectively vary the detailed prescribed pattern from authority to authority. That is why local government will always remain necessary.

There is at the moment a tendency for the central Government

Future of nuclear power supplies

From Mr F. J. Chapple and Mr J. Lyons
Sir, We read with interest the recent correspondence between Mr P. J. Searby, Secretary of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, and Paul Sieghart, Joint Chairman of Justice, on the question of nuclear security and civil liberties. This is of course an aspect of the nuclear debate which needs airing: Mr Sieghart fails, it seems to us, to explain why the existence of a number of fast breeder reactors would create any more of a problem in respect of civil liberties than does the present existence of the Ministry of Defence and all its range of activities.

The overriding issue facing us all was spelled out in an earlier letter by Sir Peter Kent, Chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council. Writing on July 4 he said: "There is now a general realization that during the next ten to fifteen years world demand for oil will exceed available supplies and that energy sources must change fundamentally by 1990. It is also becoming recognized that renewable (or so called 'clean') energy resources cannot be developed on a scale sufficient to provide more than a token contribution on this time-scale. The main requirements of the civilized world must, in fact, be met by the development of a combination of oil reserves and nuclear energy."

If Sir John Hill had written that we could have expected letters of reproof and contumely from Lord Rothschild and the Astronomer Royal in the succeeding issue, *Cambridge*, from the Chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council, his opinion could not be dismissed as an expression of view of the nuclear lobby.

Sir Peter's letter was followed up by one from Professor Ian Fellis, Professor of Energy Conversion at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, which you published on July 8. He wrote: "The suggestion, however well intentioned, that nuclear power can be abandoned and replaced by alternative sources of energy plus coal is regrettably unrealistic. I frankly wish that this were not the case, but we seem to have almost no room

for manoeuvre. The abandonment of a possibly dangerous but technologically proven energy source will lead to serious energy shortages in the 1990s and the consequent economic and political repercussions could prove as disrupting as a nuclear accident."

That last reference of course puts the question of civil liberties in its proper context, and one which, if Mr Sieghart fails, it seems to us, to explain why the existence of a number of fast breeder reactors would create any more of a problem in respect of civil liberties than does the present existence of the Ministry of Defence and all its range of activities.

It is remarkable how little interest these two very important letters provoked. The really worrying thing about our present predicament, however, is the failure of the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Tony Benn, to tell the British people the truth about the real choices we face, and the inescapable need for a major nuclear programme to be organized as urgently as possible.

Tony Benn, who can certainly communicate when he wants to, is in a unique position to spell out the facts to the British public. It is right for there to be a public debate on nuclear power and all that it involves, so that the issues are brought out into the open and discussed. It is not in dispute that we have to proceed with the greatest care. But for the reasons contained in the two letters from which we have quoted above, it is time that the debate was put on to a different footing.

It is not a question of whether we shall need a much greater nuclear programme, including a demonstration fast breeder reactor. It is a question of whether the inevitable adoption of such a programme will require us to face up to. If the Secretary of State for Energy will only put the public debate on to that footing, it might as well be properly discharging his responsibilities to the British people.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. CHAPPLE, Chairman,
JOHN LYONS, Secretary,
Electricity Supply Industry Employees' National Committee, Stapin House,
Fox Lane North, Chertsey, Surrey, September 26.

Dr Cruise O'Brien's defeat

From Mr John Arden
Sir, If Bernard Levin really sees Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien as a kind of Irish Lot, alone deserving of survival upon the day of destruction, should he not also remember the sentiments of the late A. Hitler in 1945—"The German people have proved themselves unworthy of my destiny..."? The fact is that at this year's general election Mr Cosgrave lost his Government and Dr Cruise O'Brien his seat.

I have been living in the West of Ireland for a number of years: in June I voted against the Government, even though I had once worked under Dr Cruise O'Brien at New York University and had formed so high an opinion of his political integrity that I dedicated a play to him. Had I been a resident of his Dublin constituency I would have voted against him personally. The reasons for my change of attitude (which I know from observation and conversation to be shared by many others) were:

(1) the Coalition Government's appalling record upon civil liberties, prison conditions, and police repression;
(2) the insidious smear campaign put out by the Coalition and subscribed to by Dr Cruise O'Brien, whereby all demands for reform of the above abuses were presented as the aiding and abetting of "subversive terrorism".

None of this has anything much to do with National Unification—an aspiration still enshrined in the constitution and agreed, as a long-term aim, by all Irish major political parties. Repression, on the other hand, is repression is repression... Bernard Levin, as we know, is against it, in South Africa, in Russia, and in all sorts of other places. He is not a nationalist. Dr Cruise O'Brien, as its most articulate and sophisticated Irish advocate, upon the whole population of the country in contradiction to their expressed democratic wish, is neither consistent nor nationalist. Has not Ireland suffered enough?

Yours, etc.
JOHN ARDEN,
Gory Road, Corrandulla, Co. Galway, Ireland, September 23.

Candidates' deposits

From Mr Dennis Delderfield
Sir, In a democracy we should see that different points of view are able to be put to the electorate as long as they have reasonable backing in a constituency. I do not think there should be any increase in the deposit but the number of people nominating a candidate should be increased to 50 voters in the constituency instead of 10 voters as at present.

One argument put forward for increasing the deposit is that a candidate gets a free post facility. Let's do away with the free post rather than increase the deposit, because if a candidate and his supporters have not got the enthusiasm to deliver their election addresses by hand then they cannot be very serious about putting their message across to the voters.

These changes would be fair to all parties and not favour the two main parties as purely increasing the deposit would do, or are the two main parties getting worried by the opposition and want to curtail it?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS DELDERFIELD,
National Chairman,
New Britain Party,
39 Andrews House,
Barbican, EC2,
September 25.

Vatican representation

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby, CH
Sir, Next to political prejudice religion probably comes a close second. I make no claim to be entirely free of it. I can, however, say this to Mr van Straubenzee (Letter, September 24): the question of raising the diplomatic status of our man at the Vatican was and will remain a matter of political judgment. That, quite simply, means giving greater weight to other people's prejudices than to one's own.

Mr Kevin Alban's point (September 26) is denied by the facts. The Vatican is not a nation-state. Diplomatic representation of the Vatican is representation of the Roman Catholic Church and not of the people and government of the Vatican City. I am, Sir, yours, etc.

LOUGHTON OF SOWERBY,
Hampstead, London, September 26.

Attempt to unseat MP

From Mr John C. Sorrell
Sir, I live in the Chelsea and Kensington constituency and was for many years a member of the local Conservative Association, serving on several committees and also as a member of the Royal Borough Council.

I resigned from the Association, severing all my links with them, after the adoption of Mr Scott in 1974 and subsequently have abstained from voting for him, not because of any ideological reasons (although I hardly sympathize with his views), but rather because of the cynical way he left his previous constituency for the safe one of Chelsea when it was plainly apparent that another general election would follow very shortly and where he, as the previous Member, obviously stood the best chance of winning back a vital marginal seat for the Conservatives.

This to me is the important difference between this case and that of Sir Nigel Fisher, but nevertheless I am sure that I am not alone in Chelsea in wishing to see a representative of this calibre as candidate for the next election.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. SORRELL,
3 Chelme Mews,
Chelsea, SW3,
September 22.

'Crisis at Christmas'

From Mr J. P. Hudson
Sir, I am amazed to read in your today's issue (September 23) that Mr Neville Scott, Mr. P. Sieghart, and Mr. Sieghart consider that Mr Beale considers questionable, specifying "Crisis at Christmas" as one of his examples.

"Crisis at Christmas" is in fact an umbrella fund-raising organisation which supports some seven, mostly religious, bodies engaged in providing temporary accommodation and food over the Christmas holidays for down-and-outs. It so happens that the choir, of which I am a member, generally takes part in an Advent carol service in Southwark Cathedral, this service being one of the major fund-raising events for this good cause.

I suggest that unless Mr Beale has been misquoted, he might be amends for what is, morally at least, a form of slander, by making a generous donation to "Crisis at Christmas".

Yours faithfully,
J. P. HUDSON,
96 Northchurch Road, N1, September 23.

Not cricket

From Mr John Fingleton
Sir, In reply to Mr A. R. White's letter of today (September 26), unless, of course, Mr Scott is elected to the House of Lords?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FINGLETON,
21 Avenue Mansions,
Hampstead, NW2,
September 26.

How the blue pencil can be blunted

Part 2 of Leo Labedz's article on how censorship works in communist countries

In 1783, Jean Francois de la Harpe wrote about the operation of censorship in France:

"It is this arbitrary authority that has made the censoring of books a fruitless and vexatious inquisition, both in principle and in its results. But how can those who act in this way forget that writers who are refused decent and honest liberty in Paris can, sixty or eighty leagues away, go to any lengths and exceed all limits just because no one has restrained them?"

Things are better controlled now, but the problem still exists. Ever since the denunciation of Stalin by Khrushchev, Soviet and East European writers began publishing their works abroad (*Tanizdat*). The outgoing flow is obviously on the increase and so is the incoming flow, in spite of all the efforts to check it.

A secret document about such efforts has reached the West from a separate source. It is the Official Bulletin "G" of the Central Customs Office in Warsaw. Released on February 28, 1976 (after the Helsinki agreement) and marked "confidential", it gives a list of 488 periodicals denied entry into Poland. Signed by the chief customs officer, J. Nowicki, it also deals with the control of magnetic tapes and provides instructions concerning the prevention of the export of "materials that can serve purposes contrary to the interests of the Polish People's Republic".

The list of prohibited journals contains numerous errors, such as the description of Hamburg's liberal-left *Die*

Zeit as a "Springer publication", or of my own London quarterly *Survey* as "a monthly published in New York". The net is cast very wide indeed: from the French (totally apolitical) *Mechanique Populaire* to the *Irish Communist*; from *The Jewish Journal of Sociology* to *La Voix Internationale de la Resistance*; from *Nuovo Umanita* to *Die Welt*; from *France Dimanche* to *Die Presse*; from *Reader's Digest* to *Der Stern*; from *Life* magazine (which ceased publication years ago) to *Jewish Chronicle*; from Glasgow's *Soviet Studies* to the *Canadian Slavonic Studies*; from the New York monthly *Discent*; from London's *Encounter* to Monaco's *Temoignages*; from the radical New York journal *The Minority of One* (rendered as: *The Minority of One*) to the *Jerusalem Post* (rendered as: *Jerusalem Post*).

One can only admire the thoroughness of the Polish censors in weeding out even the most obscure publications (such as the Catholic *Ave Maria* from Buffalo or our pro-Maoist *The Broadsheet*), some of which no longer exist. One is puzzled by the absence of many prominent titles, but there may be other lists and in any case their absence from the list does not necessarily indicate that they are allowed in; the singling out of the *Piper Verlag* and of the *Presses Universitaires de France* as "subject to especially strict control" certainly does not mean that books from other publishing houses are automatically permitted.

The famous French liberal chief-censor between 1750 and 1763, Lamoignon de Malesherbes, insisted that his subordinates (who increased during that period from 79 to 121) had no sufficient qualifications for their offices, and that "a knowledge of Latin together with a smattering of Greek and of elementary philosophy did not make any man capable of dictating the reading of a whole nation". The Polish censors' aim is no less ambitious, but they are far more ignorant (and numerous). None of the documents indicates that any of them may err on the side of liberalism. They seem to be no more knowledgeable, but less broad-minded than the French censor of the ancien régime who reported: "I have read by order of the Chancellor, a work called *The Koran* by Mahomet, and I find nothing in it contrary to religion and morals." There is no room in the elaborate totalitarian censorship of the *nouveau régime* for a Malesherbes trying "to seek the remedy not in severity but in tolerance". It is unlikely that there will be the counterpart of the Boulevard Malesherbes in a free Warsaw.

This is not to say that the censors do not have their problems. In fact the evidence strongly suggests that these are on the increase. The abatement of terror inevitably imposed new dilemmas for totalitarian censorship. Their resolution depends on the reactions from below and on the adjustments from above.

The traditional function of totalitarian censorship is to extol the superior's

non-existing clothes, but in Poland the spell is largely broken. The censors make small concessions, allow in exceptional cases limited editions for special audiences, but they cannot adopt Malesherbes' advice to the King: "Tolerance many small abuses in order to avoid the larger ones."

The party authorities fear that writing appetites may prove to be the thin end of the wedge and therefore still instinctively treat any manifestation of independent thought as a mortal danger and regularly counsel against the relaxation of censorship. Soviet journals now stress this openly. *Kommunist* (August 1977, p. 39) stated:

"It is imperative for the organs which form public opinion to have the confirmation that ideological directives and political slogans achieve their aims. The slightest weakening of the 'feed-back' principle inevitably detracts from their effectiveness in forming public opinion."

The director of the Polish radio and television, Maciej Szczepanski, was no less blunt at a close meeting of party activists. One of the restricted number of copies of his Leninist speech reached the West:

"Every press system depends on its mandatory power. There is no independent press anywhere in the world. In every political system, the press is an instrument of a given power and of a given class command."

The mitigation of censorship in a totalitarian country depends mainly on

the pressure from below. The relevance of the newly available evidence from the Polish censors' "diaries" kitchen" for the forthcoming Belgrade conference is both clear and urgent. It makes it obvious that the operation of censorship has remained essentially the same, before and after Helsinki. There was never the slightest chance that the communist signatories of the Final Act were prepared to honour their obligations and implement the provisions on the free flow of ideas. The only thing that mattered was that the legitimization of the internal pressures for relaxation of state controls. This suggests that the actual "agreements" in Belgrade will be less important than the question of whether they would encourage or discourage the internal political processes in the communist countries which offer a prospect of an eventual emergence there of independent public opinion. This is ultimately the only long term political chance for Western security.

The role of censorship is crucial in this respect. Under Stalin, the experienced writers used to say to their colleagues: "If you can—do not think; if you think—do not write; if you write—do not publish." Today the censors face a much more complicated situation: in a country like Poland it is no longer easy for them to impose obligatory perception and uniformity of expression. They can expunge independent views from the mass media, but they cannot suppress them

altogether. It is not just censorship but also self-censorship which is important for the smooth functioning of the totalitarian dictatorship. Its erosion comes first from the fact that an increasing number of people cease to exercise such self-censorship and they are no longer subject to "double-think".

All evidence indicates that communist authorities do not change their censorship practices as a result of international agreements or declarations. If anything the fear of ideological infection induces them to tighten rather than to relax internal control. This, however, is not necessarily effective if they in turn are subject to new pressures from below which are strengthened by the indirect effect of western support for human rights. Western powers cannot achieve their ostensible goals in this field on the high state-relations level alone. The past state experience indicates clearly that promises will not be kept. The publication in full of the fascinating collection of the Polish censors' documents will go some way in dissolving any remaining illusions about this. It may also help in elucidating the nature of the wider problem concerned with human rights, both intrinsically and in relation to western security. The western policy makers may yet realize that the indirect effect of the Final Act may be jeopardized in Belgrade through excessive diplomatic timidity.

Concluded

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There is still a tavern in the town

Once more we are reminded that history does repeat itself, the latest example being the current rash of wine bars across London and many other big cities. And the wine bar is, more precisely, simply the revival of the tavern.

The originator of our modern public house—often spoken of as a tavern—was the ale-house, while that selling wine for consumption on the premises was named quite distinctly and legally until 1792 when the distinction was repealed, the tavern.

In 1552 the government instituted the licensing of ale-houses, and encouraged by this official endorsement on freedom the following year introduced the licensing—which means, in effect, the restriction—of taverns.

As the preamble to the Act said: "Great number of taverns had recently been set up in back lanes, corners, and suspicious places within the City of London and divers other towns and villages within the realm" that became "the common resort of misused people".

As to the restrictions on their number, the City of London—the Tudor City proper of that name, of course—was allowed only 40; and three, four, six or eight were permitted to be licensed by the justices of the peace in 20 large named towns. All taverns outside the limits of boroughs or market towns were suppressed.

Although taverns had to be licensed by justices up to these numbers, exceptions were—at a price—made later by the king, and freemen of the Vintners Company of the City of London were given special privileges so as to escape the licensing system.

John Earle, later Bishop Exeter (1601-65), made quite clear the distinction between the ale-house and the tavern in his *Microcosmographie*, published anonymously in 1628 but destined to run through ten editions in his own lifetime, and some of the distinction he then noted might apply equally today:

"A tavern is a degree, or (if you will) a pair of stairs above

an alehouse, where men are drunk with more credit and apology. . . . To give you the total reckoning of it, it is the busy man's recreation, the idle man's business, the melancholy man's sanctuary, the stranger's welcome, the insouciant man's entertainment, the scholar's kindness, and the citizen's courtesy. It is the study of sparkling wits, and a cup of comedy their book, whence we leave them."

By then, of course, taverns had been in existence for centuries and their history serves to remind us that price control is no new thing in this country. As early as the reign of Richard II price control ordered that "wines of Gascon, of Osey, and of Spain" as well as Rhine wine should not be sold for more than sixpence a gallon. Yet even under this form of price restraint, vintners in the City of London together with tavern keepers rose to become aldermen and lord mayors.

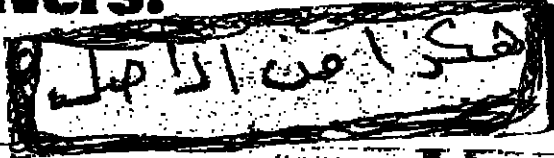
Price control was evident again under Edward VI, when it was made law that not more than eightpence a gallon should be charged for French wines—and private homes were limited to ten gallons per person per annum.

Taverns achieved their greatest dramatic fame, of course, in the plays of Shakespeare and contemporaries, and if we wish further evidence of soaring inflation and equally soaring consumption of wine turn to Falstaff's bill at the Boar's Head tavern: "A capon, 2s. 2d.; sack, two gallons, 5s. 8d."

But almost all those old, even ancient taverns were burnt in the Great Fire of 1666 and those that escaped have since seen their sites "developed".

One such was the Crown Tavern that used to stand on the site of the main entrance to the Bank of England. It was burnt down in the Great Fire, rebuilt, and in the following century it was not unusual to draw a buzz of Mountain wine, containing 120 gallons, in gills, in a morning.

Ross Wilson



THE TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1977

Stock Exchange Prices

Widespread gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept. 19. Dealings End, Sept 30. § Contango Day, Oct 3. Settlement Day, Oct 11

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

John Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORS

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

هنا من الاصل

John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

Gilts and equities surge on IMF confidence and tax cut hopes

By Our Financial Staff

Both gilt and equity markets made strong advances yesterday after weekend remarks by Dr. James Callaghan, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, complimenting Britain on its economic recovery and approving the idea of a package of measures to stimulate the economy.

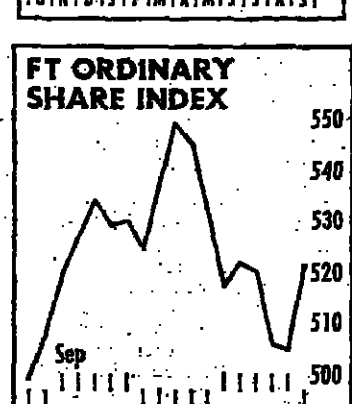
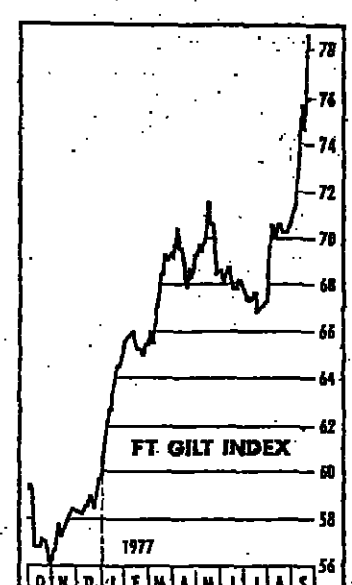
The FT 30-share index edged 15.6 points higher at 213.3 and gains in government securities ran to around 23. In the gilt edged market, rates at one time went to well over 4 among longer dated stocks before profit-takers moved in late in the day. At the shorter end of the market, advances were less dramatic at around 75p.

It was not, however, simply Dr. Callaghan's statement of confidence in Britain and the hope that this would encourage further overseas buying of gilts that pushed prices ahead. The authorities' decision not to announce a new offer of gilt edged stock last Friday afternoon also helped.

Although the authorities might in any case not have been especially keen on a new issue just ahead of yesterday's £328m "call" on Treasury 12½ per cent, 1984, the decision to leave the market untapped for the time being was taken as a signal that the Government wanted the cost of long term borrowing to fall before it resumed its funding programme. At present, high coupon "longs" yield around 11½ per cent.

The strength of gilts rubbed off on the equity market, which had its best session for more than nine months. Though share prices recouped more than half of last week's losses in one go, dealers said that buying, some of it institutional, was much more restrained than in recent weeks. Nevertheless, the market took heart from the prospect of a possible stimulus to the economy in the near future.

In spite of profits from Fisons below market expectations, dealers were encouraged by the more optimistic outlook.



Most still feel that equities are in for a period of consolidation before new peaks are reached on the index.

Gold closed at a six-month high of \$153.125 an ounce in London yesterday, a rise of \$2.25 from Friday.

The pound gained 10 points against the dollar to close at \$1.7440 yesterday, its highest dollar rate for over a year. The effective rate index was unchanged at 52.4, and the Bank of England was thought to have intervened heavily in the market to hold the rate down.

Financial Editor, page 21

Portuguese negotiating UK deal for 20 ships

By Peter Hill

Negotiations taking place between British Shipbuilders and Portugal could lead to an order for 20 ships. These discussions have taken on a new importance because of uncertainty over the outcome of negotiations on a £130m shipbuilding deal with Poland.

British Shipbuilders, the recently formed state shipbuilding organisation, has secured a useful base of orders in the course of this year. There is growing speculation that intensive negotiations with Poland on a deal for 26 ships will end with fewer vessels being ordered because of difficulties over financing. The talks have been going on for almost a year.

British Shipbuilders was yesterday reluctant to give details of the talks with the Portuguese beyond confirming that they were taking place. At present, the discussions are apparently centred on how many ships are to be built in Britain and how many in Portugal.

Industry sources, however, indicated that a total of 20 vessels are involved. These are understood to be mainly short sea service, min-bulk vessels. British yards would probably provide the specifications for the ships and build several of them while providing the necessary training in the United Kingdom for the Portuguese. The remainder of the ships would be built in Portugal, supervised by the British-trained personnel and British Shipbuilders would receive licence payments.

It is understood, however, that Britain will insist on the Portuguese-built ships incorporating a considerable volume of British-made components and steel.

Norway has also been involved in discussions with the Portuguese on a similar package but British Shipbuilders believes it can offer more competitive prices and a better overall package.

Further discussions on the Polish deal are expected to be resumed within the next two weeks. The negotiations have entered a critical phase and will be mainly concerned with price. The Government is anxious to see the negotiations completed as quickly as possible.

Financial Editor, page 21

Criticism of Companies House rises

By Bryan Appleyard

City discontent with the revamped Companies House is about to come to a head as users show signs of losing patience with the new system. Approaches to the Department of Trade by institutions and search agencies demanding action are likely to be made shortly.

Despite protests from the City, the legal profession and financial journalists, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, responsible for companies at the Department of Trade, said in 1975 it would "improve the presentation of company records and provide a speedier and more efficient service to the public".

One major user said as many as two or three out of ten searches yielded print-outs or microfiche that were in some way defective and this, combined with the longer time needed to operate the new equipment, had pushed up search fees considerably.

He estimated average waiting time for a fiche to be produced was four to five hours compared with the 18 minutes for which the system had been geared.

Most of the problems bear out the City fears expressed in 1971 at the time of the original

announcement of the move to Cardiff, and there is a feeling that they make a nonsense of the Companies (No. 2) Act which aims to tighten up the requirements on companies to file details with Companies House and which is about to come into force.

The position is being monitored by a users' committee and Mr John MacGregor, Conservative MP for South Norfolk.

Mr MacGregor, who is a director of merchant bankers, Hill Samuel, said he was taking a "wait-and-see" attitude. He would be looking at the situation and would then decide whether to take the matter up with the Government.

The users' committee meets every month to discuss the problems with Mr Dennis Notgate, Company Registrar for England and Wales. Its next

meeting is due in two weeks when the results of their latest complaints will be reviewed.

First concrete evidence of a real improvement seems to have emerged recently in the form of a streamlining of the complaints department. One user commented that his complaints were now taken more seriously.

In August Dun and Bradstreet, the American company which makes about 150,000 company searches a year, took the initiative by calling on all users to complain about every error or illegible page. Many agencies had said they no longer bothered to complain as the number of wrong or illegible pages was too high.

But there seems to be serious disagreement between users and the Department of Trade about the level of errors. The 20 to 30 per cent figure mentioned by users contrasts with the 3 per cent claimed by the DoT.

Most of the larger users say they have a special relationship with Companies House and are not anxious to cause any trouble, but it is clear that they are now considering going

straight to the Government rather than simply to carry on complaining to the officers who are obliged to try and make the system work.

One user reports a feeling of resignation between both the registrars and agencies. He is convinced the new system is just not as good as the old method of actually looking through the original company file, but that it is here to stay and has to be accepted.

In addition he pointed out that the new system had brought with it an unwelcome element of uncertainty. The searcher could never be sure from the files whether he had been given all the information. In the current state of affairs, the searcher could not even be sure the company had not recently gone into liquidation.

About 80 per cent of the 670,000 company records have been microfilmed and the remainder are being photographed in London instead of Exeter, where a special plant was set up for the job.

These last files are having to be microfilmed to higher standards as many of them involve older documents

Rely on US Mr Carter tells finance ministers

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Sept 26 President Carter told finance ministers today that the rest of the world could depend on the United States to improve the international economy and that the United States was determined "to stay the course".

The President said at the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that the United States would take steps "to strengthen world non-inflationary economic growth; that it would increase substantially its aid to foreign aid and make every effort to secure 'freer and wider' international trade."

The President sought to reassure foreign nations today of American determination to play its part in strengthening the international economy, while, at the same time, he urged other industrial nations, in particular, to make greater efforts themselves.

He went on to say that the United States would lend its support to a significant increase in the resources of the IMF and take legislative action to establish the new IMF special credit



Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Carl-Henrik Nordlander, Governor of the Bank of Sweden, at yesterday's annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank.

facility, which is to have funds of about \$10,000m.

The President called on all other industrial nations to take steps to reduce their oil consumption, to increase their foreign aid contributions, to expedite approval of changes in the IMF's articles of agreement and ensure that "substantive" progress is made this year in the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva.

He pledged that his Administration would take whatever policy measures were necessary to ensure that American oil consumption was reduced and that significant real economic growth was achieved by the United States in 1978.

The President added that

the American example in the foreign aid area and that the Congress had already passed legislation authorizing a big increase in American contributions to the World Bank.

This was the one aspect of the President's speech that is likely to cause the most controversy here, especially as the President made no comment on the economic difficulties he is now having in convincing the Congress to appropriate new foreign aid funds.

Congress has indeed, given its approval to authorizing legislation for foreign aid totals that are well below the levels sought by him. It also seems determined to attach special clauses to the appropriations "legislation" that "Mr

Robert McNamara, the World Bank's president, had stated would make it impossible for the World Bank to accept the American foreign aid funds.

The Congress is limiting its contributions to the World Bank group by stating that the money could not be used on foreign development, such as citrus, sugar and palm oil, or on the development of Cambodia and Angola.

Unless Congress relents and appropriates the funds in the next few weeks without such special clauses attached, then the World Bank's operations will be severely curtailed. After all, total American contributions for the year ahead alone amount to some \$1,800m.

Leyland in truck plant peace talks

By R. W. Shakespeare

Talks involving national union officials, senior management and shopfloor representatives began yesterday in an attempt to end the strike which has stopped all vehicle production at Leyland's bus and truck factories.

The strike by 9,000 workers, and now in its second week, is a serious blow to Leyland's already shaky finances. The Leyland bus and truck plants at Leyland and Sharncliffe are normally one of the company's most profitable operations.

Both the Government's pay strategy and Leyland's efforts to conform with national policy while trying to correct some of the more serious anomalies embodied in its highly fragmented wages structure are being challenged.

Plant negotiators have rejected an offer that would have meant across-the-board increases of 7.6 per cent coupled to a productivity agreement which, it was claimed, could have added a further 15 per cent to wages next year.

A mass meeting of workers voted overwhelmingly for strike action in support of demands for a "substantial" (but so far unspecified) pay increase, a reduction in the working week to 35 hours and fewer shop-floor pay grades.

Leyland has made it clear from the outset that its heavy dependence on state finance makes it essential that it sticks to Government pay guidelines.

Rockware withdraws offer for Redfearn

By R. W. Shakespeare

Rockware Group has officially withdrawn its £19.5m offer for Redfearn National Glass after its reference to the Monopolies Commission; but it intends to pursue its case in favour of the takeover before the commission.

International, the other bidder for Redfearn, has yet to announce whether it will put its own case to the commission.

A spokesman for Rockware said that if Rheeem went ahead he expected the whole procedure to take much longer. A spokesman for Redfearn said it was placed on the commission's deliberations.

Directors asked about Tarmac share sales

Two directors of Tarmac subsidiary companies have been asked by the group to explain sales of Tarmac shares one day before the group reported depressing interim profit figures last week.

Mr T. D. Lowe, a director of Thomas Lowe & Sons, a housing subsidiary, sold 3,620 Tarmac shares and Mr J. N. Cuthbert, a director of the Southern Roadways subsidiary, Kings & Co, sold 8,000 shares.

The sales were made on September 15 and on the following day Tarmac reported that profits for the half year to the end of June had only increased from £9.24m to £9.97m.

In brief

Mr Ernest Harrison, chairman of Racial Electronics, who yesterday revealed new orders worth £50m including one of £15m, which represents the largest contract ever awarded to one of the group's companies.

This order has been placed by an unnamed North African government with Racial Electronics and is for the supply of radio communication equipment, ancillaries and services.

Speaking at the opening of an exhibition of the group's products in London, Mr Harrison said that the company was aiming to £200m this year and increase the percentage of overseas business from 70 per cent to 80 per cent.

The Times index: 214.53 + 6.08

The FT index: 521.3 + 16.6

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	5	1.50
Austria	30.25	22.25
Belgium	64.75	61.75
Canada	1.91	1.86
Denmark	11.10	10.70
Finland	7.50	7.30
France	7.54	7.52
Germany	4.23	4.01
Greece	64.50	61.50
Hong Kong	8.40	7.95
Italy	122m	120m
Japan	489.00	465.00
Netherlands	4.47	4.25
Norway	9.90	9.54
Portugal	76.90	69.00
S Africa	1.82	1.70
Spain	149.75	142.50
Sweden	8.73	8.38
Switzerland	4.29	4.07
US \$	1.79	1.74
Yugoslavia	36.25	34.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only. All rates subject to change without notice. Local currency, currency and other local currency, currency and other local currency.

How the markets moved

Rises

Ass Port Cement	6p to 25p
Beecham	2p to 65p
Castrol R	15p to 310p
Courtauld	8p to 104p
Decca	7p to 104p
Eagle Star	12p to 160p
EMI	9p to 22p
Gen Accident	13p to 21p
GKN	15p to 310p
Imp Chem Ind	13p to 45p
Lloyds Bank	14p to 25p

Falls

Briton Percy	5p to 160p
Esplanade	14p to 205p
Imp Cold Store	5p to 115p

Equities went strong ahead. Gilt-edged securities rose 23. Dollar premium 89 per cent (effective rate 2.44 year). The Sterling closed at 1.7440. The effective exchange rate index was unchanged at 52.4.

Gold was up \$2.25 an ounce to \$153.125.

S&P-500 was 1.16082 on Monday, while S&P-400 was 0.665646.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1502.5 (previous 1501.5). Reports pages 22 & 23

Talks begin on travel 'agents' closed shop rule

A new round of talks on the travel agents' closed shop have started between officials of the Association of British Travel Agents and the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Neil Burton, director of the OFT's competition policy division, is looking for ABTA suggestions for modifications to the closed shop agreement, which covers 4,000 travel agents.

An initial meeting has already been held with Mr Burton. Mrs Margaret Hook, ABTA president, said she hoped, by the time of the annual convention in Lisbon in November, to know whether the agreement could be retained.

"This affects the livelihood of all our members," she said. "They are extremely uneasy about not knowing which way they are going."

ABTA rules at present stipulate that inclusive foreign holidays can be sold only by agents who are members. Until the outcome of the new talks is known, the Government is delaying a request that this agreement be exempted from the restrictive practices legislation.

Whitehall allocates £1.5m for energy-saving projects

By Roger Vielvoe

About £1.5m is to be invested by the Government in demonstration plants to show industrialists the benefits of energy conservation projects. Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that more than £400,000 had been allocated for 18 demonstration plants as part of a five-point programme to reinforce Britain's energy-saving efforts.

Mr Benn, who was opening the National Energy Managers Conference in Birmingham, said other options were being considered including mandatory regulations, price and tax mechanisms and other incentives. Government officials were compiling a report examining the scope for major energy savings throughout the community—in housing, industry, transport and other sectors.

"We have commissioned the study to bring forward proposals showing the savings which could be achieved for specific levels of public expenditure over this period and to seek a substantial reduction in the growth rate of energy consumption over the next 10 years," he said.

At first the demonstration projects will concentrate on recovery and use of waste heat, which could save the equivalent of up to six million tons of coal a year. A large proportion of the first allocation will go on a project at the British Nuclear Fuels Metal Federation laboratories at Warrington, to take

the exhaust gases from melting and reheating furnaces for use in space heating and other projects by means of a microprocessor. Other projects will be in the textiles, food, rubber, and timber industries.

The programme has been developed by the Energy Technology Support Unit at Harwell and approved by the Department of Energy's Advisory Council on Research and Development.

It was decided to start with industrial waste heat recovery because it promised immediate prospects for achieving energy savings by adopting existing plants. It was also applicable to a wide range of industries. Eventually this programme could have a budget of several million pounds a year.

Mr Benn announced four other aids to conservation. A Quick Advice Service is to be introduced to provide free energy-saving information for industry, commerce and the public sector, and the subsidy for a visit to a factory by an energy conservation consultant is to be doubled.

Studies are to be made of 21 energy-intensive industries to ascertain energy-saving problems and potential, with the publication of reports where necessary. A newspaper, Energy Management, is to be published monthly to keep energy managers informed of the latest developments in the conservation field.

Wage claims averaging above 20 pc, CBI says

By Patricia Tisdall

Wage claims at present being submitted by unions for phase three of the pay policy were described as "ridiculously high" yesterday by Mr John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry.

CBI's data bank was showing that claims were averaging between 20 and 30 per cent. The confederation's view was that the chance of employers building their ground in the private sector would be undermined if powerful unions used their undoubted and often unfair power to obtain excessive wage increases for their members.

If unions tried to force such claims through there was every prospect of even greater unemployment, combined with galloping inflation.

Full observance of pay limits by the Government was included in a five-point plan for improving the economy which Mr Methven outlined to the Food Manufacturers Federation national conference.

To gain control over inflation the Government must in addition keep tight control of the money supply, with employers and unions playing their parts in observing pay limits. In the medium term the need was to reform the country's system of pay determination.

The conditions to achieve a restoration of profitability required lower inflation, lower taxes, steadily expanding markets and more realistic accounting methods.

Mr Methven called for the cuts to centre on direct taxes, aimed at restoring incentives. For small companies, he said, the threat of a wealth tax should be removed and capital transfer tax reduced on industrial assets so that expansion and increased employment could be encouraged.

Malcolm Brown writes: The Government's use of sanctions against companies which breached the pay guidelines launched by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was a step away from the impartial rule of law towards the tyranny of the bureaucracy, Mr Jan Hildreth, director-general of the Institute of Directors said yesterday.

"The companies now to be punished by the 'nannies' of Whitehall have broken no law," said Mr Hildreth, who was commenting on the sanctions imposed on the Belfast-based engineering company James Hume & Co. by the Government's threat of sanctions against the sugar group Tate & Lyle.

"Indeed, I doubt whether they have even transgressed the 10 per cent guideline if this implies an average. Their only offence is to have backed their own judgement, which is best for customers, employees and owners alike against that of the bureaucrats whose archaic prescriptions are notable only for consistent failure."

There was still no sign yesterday of Mackie taking steps in London to replace the lost Export Credits Guarantee Department cover on its Vietnamese and Tanzanian contracts, although the Vietnamese government is understood to be prepared to help out.

Lloyd's of London said no approach had yet been made by Mackie to any of its brokers. Low profits hitting investment, page 20

PIFCO

Pifco Holdings Limited

Salient Figures	1977	1976
Turnover	£10,442,000	£8,026,300
Profit before Taxation	£1,371,900	£1,139,000
Net earnings per share	13.24p	11.34p
Gross dividends per share	4.089p	3.717p

Extract from the Chairman's Statement

The results of the past year showed growth in our market share in real terms helped by the expansion in our range of appliances.

Your Board is hopeful that the Group will make progress in spite of the general background of economic and political uncertainty.

The current year has started satisfactorily with exports continuing to show a healthy trend. Our financial situation is sound and some noteworthy product additions this year should make a steady contribution to turnover and profits.

On other pages

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Willis Faber	22

UK warning over Bill favouring American flag ships for oil imports

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

A scathing attack on growing protectionism in United States shipping was delivered last night by Mr Peter Walters, president of the General Council of British Shipping.

The measure now going through Congress reserving 91 per cent of United States oil imports to American-flag tankers was "just the tip of the iceberg", he said, and if passed would probably be followed by further measures increasing the proportion of protected oil, and spreading the protection to dry cargoes.

Mr Walters was commenting on a unique plea by shippers and shipowners of Europe and Japan urging their governments to oppose the American legislation as harmful both to the

United States itself and to international relations.

According to Mr Walters the measure, which even the White House admits is a "flawed concept", will conserve more than 30 treaties with other countries, and America's commitments under GATT.

It would add considerably to United States domestic costs without making any contribution to its defence needs, he said. It would add to surplus tanker capacity which already exceeded about 90 million tons deadweight.

Mr Walters added: "It is extraordinary that a nation which has been so clearly and consistently on the public record for opposing protectionism should now contemplate changing its position so radically."

"This does not bode well for negotiations in various international bodies where the main objective is to reduce or dismantle both tariff and non-tariff barriers to world trade. I very much hope that wiser counsels will prevail."

The shipping measure is proving embarrassing to the American Administration, quite apart from the above considerations, because it is now universally considered to be a "political pay-off" for help from maritime interests in President Carter's election campaign.

There is speculation over the move by Mr John Murphy, who has been piloting it enthusiastically through the House, in unexpectedly asking for the floor debate to be delayed at the end of last week.

Fife yard to share £20m contract

By Our Energy Correspondent

A deal that will enable a British yard to gain a share in work on the oil production platform for Texaco's Tartan field in the North Sea is thought to have been reached after further talks yesterday between the company and Dr Dickson Mabon, Minister of State at the Department of Energy.

A French yard, UIE at Cherbourg, had originally submitted the lowest tender for the platform work and was favourite to win the £20m order, much to the concern of the Department of Energy in view of the run-down state of the British platform-building industry.

Dr Mabon yesterday met Mr Jim Williams, chairman of Texaco North Sea, Mr Jim Barber, its vice-president, and Mr Tom Correll, managing director of Texaco Ltd, who appears likely that work on the Tartan steel jacket will be shared between UIE and Redpath Dorman Long of Methil, Fife, which submitted the second-lowest tender. Texaco is expected to issue a statement before the end of the week.

There has been a series of talks between the Government and executives from Texaco to ensure that the results of the tenders were compatible. During these discussions it was established that the French bid was £4m lower than that from Redpath, which has no work in hand.

Texaco announced at the beginning of the month that it would spend £250m on developing Tartan—which lies about 115 miles north-east of Aberdeen—through a single four-legged steel platform. Production is due to begin in late 1979 or early 1980 and will build up to a peak of 75,000 barrels a day.

After announcing last month that reserves on the Argyll field might be only two-thirds of the original estimate, the Hamilton Brothers group has discovered a small extension that could add 5,000 barrels a day.

A well just under a mile from the south-western edge of the reservoir was tested at 5,000 barrels a day.

Lucas aims for component deal with Japan next week

By Clifford Webb

British electrical components could be fitted to Japanese cars exported to Britain and other European countries if the Birmingham-based Lucas group can clinch deals now being negotiated with leading Japanese car manufacturers.

Lucas would not only benefit from sales of equipment to Japanese car factories, but also from the much more profitable after sales market in this country.

Ironically, one of the Japanese companies involved, the Mitsubishi concern which makes Colt cars, is itself a big producer of automotive electronics.

During the recent 11 weeks long strike at Lucas, Mitsubishi stepped in to keep Leyland factories running for a time with alternative supplies. The speed with which it responded was widely interpreted as an attempt to open the way for long-term contracts.

The dilemma facing Mitsubishi is the contrasting needs of its car exports on the one hand, and its electrical exports on the other. Colt cars are very recent arrivals in Britain, and as such have found their sales potential severely restricted by the voluntary Japanese undertaking to keep their car sales here to the present 10 per cent market share.

It, however, it can demonstrate a willingness to offset increased car exports by importing Lucas electronics it will have a much stronger hand in pressing for a bigger market share.

Mitsubishi's United Kingdom importer, Mr Michael Orr, managing director of the Colt Car Company, Cirencester, is playing a leading role in negotiations.

Many food manufacturers' costs are beyond their direct control. Raw materials account for over half the total average costs for all manufactured food products. Packaging materials represent on average around 10 per cent.

Mr Hornby pointed out that during the 10 months since last January, prices of both tinplate cans and glass containers will have risen by about 20 per cent.

He called for a better understanding by suppliers of packaging materials of the food manufacturers' problems.

He also asked for a reduction in "the burden of legislation" by the EEC as well as at Westminster.

For example, the cost to the industry of replacing some 42.5 million permanently labelled bottles to comply with Weights and Measures regulations made in 1975, is estimated at well over £2.5m. "Somehow we must find ways of reducing the burden of bureaucracy".

Food manufacturers' chief says low profit margins hit investment

By Patricia Tisdall

An increase in profitability is needed before British food manufacturers will return to a high level of investment, Mr Derrick Hornby, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, stated yesterday.

Speaking at the federation's sixth national conference in London, Mr Hornby blamed inflation, fluctuating interest rates and government controls on profit margins for inhibiting new investment.

In real terms investment in the food industry has fallen by around 35 per cent between 1971 and 1976, according to the federation's figures.

Return on capital needs to be raised from its present level of below 15 per cent to somewhere around 25 per cent before there is a return to investment, even in terms of replacing existing assets, he said.



Mr Derrick Hornby. "Agricultural production should be geared to demand."

Mr Alan Jacobs, British Airways chief of computer services, said: "The improvement in equipment performance of both our IBM 360 and 370 systems has been excellent. This can be attributed to regular preventive maintenance and ensuring that intermittent problems are resolved before they interrupt our system operation."

A Cray-1 computer, about five times as powerful as the large IBM 370/195 or Control Data 7600, is to be added to United Computing Systems' data centre in Kansas City, Missouri, next year. Access from the United Kingdom will be via London United Computing Systems, the UCS subsidiary which was formerly owned by London University.

When operational, UCS claims, the new system will be the most powerful computer available to commercial users anywhere.

Kenneth Owen

ERA looking at microprocessor systems

The engineering of microprocessor systems is being investigated by the computers and automation division of the Electrical Research Association, Leatherhead, Surrey, on behalf of 36 clients ranging from Leyland Cars to Trinity House lighthouse service.

According to Mr Richard Peattie, ERA engineering director, improving technology is making microprocessors easier to use, but there are now more people with fewer skills involved in system design and implementation.

The explosive growth in the use of microcomputers, he adds, is leading to situations in which engineers and management are forced to take decisions for which they have not been prepared.

Most manufacturers now offer a wide range of development hardware (at prices from about £200 to £10,000). But the ERA specialists say this rapid expansion has not been matched by the software.

One large company has shown that to use the wrong programming language can double the effort needed, while

Computer news

Inadequate computer facilities can triple it. Among the initial clients for the 12-month ERA project are the British Airports Authority, BBC, British Gas, British Steel, the CEGB, ICI, Plessey and STC.

Effects on users

Three broad aspects of computer use will be discussed at the British Computer Society's Datafair conference which opens in London next Tuesday. These will cover the computer user in a social environment; how new technology will affect the user; and how the user will be affected by the interaction between the state and private industry.

Speakers will include Mr B. Asher, industrial director, NEDU; Mr Reay Atkinson, director, Central Computer Agency; Mr David Farnberg, director, National Computing Centre; and Dr S. Jones, chair-

Computer news

men of the Computers, Systems and Electronics Requirements Board of the Department of Industry.

PO data plans

The Post Office is examining the prospects for a permanent data communication network which will follow the present Experimental Packet-Switched Service. The follow-on service would also use the packet-switching technique, but would adopt different standards and operating procedures.

Any new service would follow the internationally agreed X25 standards, which are the basis for most packet-switched services being planned at present—including the European Community's Enropnet network.

Computer news

Improved performance of British Airways' IBM computers after the switch from IBM to Data Processing Customer Engineering for maintenance services one year ago, has been reported by the airline.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Home loans tax system 'works reasonably well'

From the Secretary-General of The Building Societies Association

Sir, In your issue of September 20, Mr I. D. Morgan suggests that "building societies should issue to all mortgagees certificates of interest paid during each year of assessment in the same way as banks". He suggests that such a change in the system would result in savings both to the society and to the Inland Revenue.

It is hard to see how the supposed savings would be made as at present societies operate a system of notifying the Inland Revenue direct of all interest paid by their four million borrowers. This is far cheaper than notifying these borrowers direct and then expecting them all to pass on a certificate to the Revenue in order to obtain relief.

Considering that such a large number of borrowers qualify for tax relief on their interest, the system works reasonably well and the borrower gets his relief automatically. Although most of these notifications are produced by computer, there are the inevitable human errors from time to time but these can and should be easily rectified when the society or the Revenue is made aware of them.

Most societies issue a statement of account to their borrowers at the end of their financial year. The interest charged will not be quite the

same as that of the tax year (unless they happen to coincide) but the borrower should be able to check the interest relief given to him from these statements.

Yours faithfully,
N. E. GRIGGS,
14 Park Street,
Mayfair,
London W1Y 4AL,
September 21.

From Mr E. M. Parsons

Sir, Having read the comments of Mr Morgan (September 20) and Dr Baker (September 22), it is evident that they do not have a building society which is as practical as mine. While their financial year-end is December 31, the Derbyshire's annual statement sent to its borrowers is co-terminus with the fiscal year to assist tax computations.

Thus, in early April, I automatically receive a statement of account showing the amount of interest which has been charged during the fiscal year, and which is then returned to the Inland Revenue.

Surely in these days of computerization, would it not be possible for other societies to follow the Derbyshire's lead?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD M. PARSONS,
26 Tinswood Road,
Belper,
Derbyshire,
September 23.

Happiness... is sending back your phone bill

From Mrs Lois M. F. Valletta

Sir, Recently I had reason to complain to the Post Office of my preposterous telephone bill for the second quarter in a session. Although I am not to admit that I did use my phone the previous quarter rather than just looking at it as an ornament in my room, I could not see any justice for a repetition this quarter, had made sufficient calls, make "someone happy" another year! Coupled with a enormous amount of calls I supposed to have consumed, as an overseas cable which was never delivered, was supposed to have been cancelled. I telephoned to my local P.O. Office accounts office where very sweet person gave me the following invitation: "If you said this person, 'you are happy with your account, you please send it back to me.' I hardly feel that I should be the only person in the country to take full advantage of such an offer—neither do I. I am the only consumer to whom this invitation is given. I hope there are others who, like myself, are not 'happy' of these accounts and would like to know that the Post Office is ready to hear from them!"

Yours truly,
LOIS M. F. VALLETTA,
Ken's Farm,
Middle Walslop,
Suffolk,
Hampshire, SO20 6EQ,
September 12.

Growing interest in timber framed building

From Mr D. G. Worthy

Sir, In an article by David Young (September 16) we read, with concern, the comments as to the continued objections of building societies to timber framed housing.

The increased interest in timber framed housing which is being seen around the country is to be greatly welcomed. It is clear that in terms of insulation, energy conservation and price the timber framed house is now an extremely practical and economic proposition which ought to be given full consideration by all those responsible for new housing developments, small or large.

This federation, representing amongst others the manufacturers of timber framed houses, believes that the case made out for treating this type of house on the same basis as more traditional housing is overwhelming.

It is now three years since an expert panel of the Building Society's Association agreed that timber framed houses ought to be treated by the building societies in exactly the same manner as more traditional houses and they so informed all their members. If there is therefore any form of restriction in this regard, then we believe this must be looked at rapidly.

At a time when it is clearly essential that all methods should be explored for encouraging housing development, any measure that could restrict the use of this proven system must surely be contrary to the interests of the public.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. WORTHY,
Director,
British Woodworking Federation,
82 New Cavendish Street,
London, W1M 8AD,
September 19

House purchase and the multiple agency problem

From Mr John A. Bailey

Sir, Having read the various correspondence about the Scottish method of house purchase, I would respectfully point out that some of the points raised are already covered by the English system, but little used because of possible outcomes and preference. It is well known that contracts for the sale or other disposition of land must be evidenced in writing (Law of Property Act 1925, section 40), thus making it possible for parties to exchange a note or some memorandum with the necessary ingredients and obtaining the security at present being discussed. This, in my opinion, is often quite rightly not done due to the assistance of a solicitor.

In the recent boom period contracts were, in many cases, exchanged very quickly with staff in solicitors' offices carrying out searches personally at local authority offices.

The practice mentioned by Mr Graziani (August 2) is similar to the memorandum used in auction particulars, which in some cases is signed by the parties or their agents where a sale has been agreed prior to the sale at auction or a sale by private treaty after the property has failed to reach its reserve at auction, thus being an enforceable contract and meeting the requirements of section 40; the point being that the machinery is there to be used if required but the present system is preferred by the public and other advisers.

I feel that these legal questions must not be viewed in isolation from other differences between the two systems. Perhaps the greatest being the multiple agency. In the South it is quite often the case that six agents may be instructed to sell the same property and it may be argued that the English system, owing to this phenomenon, covers a wider market, creating far more competitive pressure. It is also worth adding that

agents tend to subdivide where they know another agent has received direct instructions, on the basis that half commission is better than none. This, of course, increases the pressure.

This consumer-created situation leads to problems quite often the agent is blamed for, for example an applicant might receive particulars from one particular agent and view the property for a few days and on arrival be informed that the property has been sold subject to contract. The agents not involved in the sale negotiations may not have been informed.

If the applicant is desperate he may offer, say £200,000, putting everyone in an awkward position, to create further problems:

(a) The vendor could sell to the first buyer who immediately makes a quick profit if he so wished.

(b) The question of a next agent valuation could arise under the multiple agency system unless the agent is a sole agent.

(c) He may gum up to a market price rather than the benefit of the profit to the purchaser.

While I deplore the system of gumming, I feel that the best way to alleviate this problem is by more expertise in the field of valuation and stable times I feel that this is considerably improved and being in preference to more legal restrictions. I would further submit that the Scottish system is rather restrictive, not allowing the experts to be exposed to competitive market conditions due to the normal practice of only one agent or solicitor being involved.

I would reiterate that the English system can provide a quick exchange of contracts if this is required.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. BAILEY,
Barnfield,
Crowborough,
Sussex,
September 21.

Curbing property development

From Mr W. Leggatt Robinson

Sir, Sir Maurice Laing (September 19), complains about the "restrictive actions" taken by successive governments against the property developer, and in this respect he compares Britain unfavourably with the United States and Canada.

Yet in the latter countries he admits that "you see buildings going up when they've already apparently got enough building of that kind already" and "There is more office space to let in downtown Vancouver than there is in the whole of London and yet they are still building".

These "restrictive actions" would therefore appear to be well advised.

Yours faithfully,
W. LEGGATT ROBINSON,
Sunfold,
Lewins Road,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire SL9 8SA,
September 12.

County and District Properties Limited

Extracts from Report and Accounts to 31 March, 1977.

Gross income £1.57m—up 106%.

Revenue after tax £.32m—up 105%.

Dividend 12%—792p per share (1p).

Earnings per share 2.80p—up 85%.

Shareholders' funds £10.9m (109p)—up 60%.

Major funding completed in July, 1977.

All short-term debt repaid—substantial facilities available.

New projects in hand and under consideration.

Copies of full Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, 46 Green Street, London W1Y 3FJ.

Davy

New Levels of Performance, Size and Strength

Highlights from the Annual Statement by Sir John Buckley, the chairman, for the year ended March 31st, 1977:

	1977	1976
■ Work done	£329m	£306m
■ Profit before tax	£18.8m	£10.4m
■ Earnings per share	30.9p	19.2p
■ Order book at 30th June	£1,157m	£733m

■ An active year for the company. Start of new year no less so.

■ Order rate was good; profits and cash flow showed marked improvement.

■ These together with two successful mergers have taken the company to new levels of performance, size and strength.

■ Dramatic economic change throughout the world still continues and may even quicken.

■ With change comes opportunity—Davy is organised to respond.

■ The basis for success will continue to be adaptability, management enterprise and keen application of all in the company. Davy has these qualities in full measure.

■ Order books exceed £1,000 million.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Davy International Ltd., 15 Portland Place, London W1A 4DD.

Davy

an international engineering and construction organisation serving the world's oil, chemical, petrochemical, plastics, synthetic fibres, fertilisers, mining and minerals, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, coal, nuclear, gas, water treatment, effluent and pollution control and other process industries; designers and manufacturers of rolling mills and auxiliaries, rolls, forging and extrusion plant, special control systems, cranes, hoists and mechanical handling systems and a wide range of custom-built machinery for the metals and other industries.

SPEAR & JACKSON INTERNATIONAL LTD

Tools for industry, house and garden.

	1977	1976	1975
6 months to June	6 months to June	12 months to Dec.	
Turnover	£21,128	£16,795	£37,932
Pretax profit	1,017	378	1,411
Earnings per share	8.5p	3.0p	11.5p
Gross dividend per share	5.417p	2.43p	11.35p

Interim report from the Chairman, Stephen de Bartolomeis:

"Progress in the first half year has been up to our expectations. For the full year I repeat what I said in my review for 1976 'we shall be very disappointed if the profits for 1977 do not materially exceed those for 1976'."

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A potent brew for security markets

arrive the gilt market of a new long-dated stock and have the managing director of the International Monetary Fund pour compliments on the state of the economy and the money market, yields in the London market still look relatively attractive.

Overseas buying of gilts may not, in fact, have been any stronger yesterday than on the days last week—albeit that the authorities are reckoned to have added at least £100m to the reserves. But the fact remains that anywhere other than the very short end of the money market, yields in the London market still look relatively attractive.

What the authorities will do next remains matter of conjecture. For the moment, there are few around the market who see much reason for the authorities to attempt peg the long end of the market until the old high coupon "longs" falls at least further half point, to around 11 per cent. great deal obviously depends, however, not only on how the market behaves over the rest of the week but, presumably, on how the authorities assess the impact of stimulus measures this autumn on the money supply/inflation rate and investor confidence.

Meanwhile, those who have been complaining about the unnecessarily high yields on which the Government has been issuing long-dated securities might care to turn their attention to rates of interest on National Savings. Labour MPs were among the first to criticise the building societies last night for not lowering the mortgage rate by more than 1 per cent.

Yet one of the reasons the building societies did not cut their rates more was quite simply that they wished to hold their investment rate slightly above the 9 per cent national Savings investment account rate at takes effect on October 1. This latter rate, though it will be coming down from 10 per cent, still looks dear for relatively short-term funds given that the authorities are now raising five-year money in the gilt market at 8.7 per cent.

Villis Faber improving despite sterling's strength

fter a mixed bag of results so far share prices among insurance brokers had been showing signs of flagging but Willis Faber's figures provide abundant evidence that mainstream broking business continues to flourish despite sterling's strength. Its 26 per cent rise to £10.8m pre-tax at the interim stage was well up to stock market expectations and brought renewed vigour to the sector.

Inflation must account for a large slice of the 20 per cent income improvement to £0.8m, but like most other British broking uses WF is still seeing particularly buoyant conditions overseas. In the United States which now accounts for perhaps as much as 40 per cent of total business underwriting is continuing to provide strong premium growth. American reinsurance and liability business being routed through to the U.S. market are still proving particularly attractive.

WF has proved then that even without the exceptional exchange gains that boosted last year's profits more than 60 per cent it can still hold on to a strong growth track, though further sterling strength could on start to have a negative effect on profits.

Assuming a stable pound, WF looks set to close to £21m for the full year compared with last year's £16.3m. The added attraction of a low-yielding sector lies in the fact that the group, as a stock market newcomer, free from dividend restraint. A 15 per cent increase at the interim stage seems to suggest a cautious approach, but the shares' rise yesterday's 15p spurt to 30p seems to be fully reflecting the possibilities on a relatively higher p/e ratio of more than 12.

The plight of the holders of Anglo-Welsh investment Trust (Continuation's) undated warrants has caused some deep thinking by the trust's manager, Leopold Joseph. But, owing taken legal advice, it is clear that the copuld will be bound by the fine print of the warrant issue documents—that is that holders of the 150,000 warrants will be entitled to exercise their subscription rights at once, exercised immediately before Anglo-Welsh's liquidation resolution is passed. As things stand, the repayment per ordinary share will be less than the 80p subscription price of each warrant, so warrant holders will get nothing if the

second one is the bigger, with a membership of 146, including 117 individuals. Beekeepers can turn to an affiliate of the British Beekeepers' Association, which provides cover for losses such as those from bee diseases.

Pehr Gyllenhammar, president of the Volvo motor group, is paying a lightning visit to London today, not to discuss car deals but the publication of his book, People at Work, which deals with the role and nature of leadership in modern industrial society.

With this Gyllenhammar moves into the realms of the philosophy of management, although for once it is a book grounded in experience.

scheme is approved at tomorrow's shareholder meeting.

Warrant holders have argued forcibly that the choice of timing as to conversion belongs only to the warrant holders and the removal of this right without compensation is morally indefensible. In answer Leopold Joseph is now sending an explanatory letter to warrant holders, pointing out that any compensation would have to be agreed by 100 per cent of the ordinary shareholders, and it would be asking too much to expect them to give part of their entitlement to those who had speculated on the chance that the market price would exceed the option price. Yet undated warrants should enjoy greater conversion flexibility than fixed term stocks and the arbitrary exclusion of that flexibility still leaves the issue in doubt.

Fisons Looking for contra-cyclical earnings

Fisons is a classic example of a company whose concerted push for growth on the back of successful product developments worked wonders for its share price while earnings were showing a strong upwards trend. Come the slowdown, however, and the shares are shunned by everyone in sight and that is exactly the punishment that has been meted out to the company over the last couple of years with its shares lagging some way behind the rest of the market. In the 1970-75 period the sharp recovery in the United Kingdom fertilizer market after the setbacks of the late 1960s provided Fisons with the cash flow it needed for research and development which luckily came up trumps in the pharmaceutical field with Tital, whose rapid penetration of overseas markets took over when fertilizers tailed off.

Over the past 18 months, however, all sides have atrophied and Fisons efforts to develop the agrochemicals business as a



Mr George Burton, chairman of Fisons.

new growth point have yet to pay off with the same degree of success—which explains why the group was happy to pay generously for Gallenkamp to turn the scientific equipment division into a useful contra-cyclical earner to fertilizers.

As it is, results for the six months to the end of June are well below the worst outside expectations with pre-tax profits down £1.8m to £8.5m. Fertilizers are of course the running rose, and profits shrank from £4m last year—already only half what the division earned in the early 1970s—to only £201,000.

Fisons is still complaining bitterly about the price advantage ICI enjoys because of its advantageous contract with the Gas Corporation and although government pressure could still be brought on ICI to raise prices that will not help Fisons in the second half. Even so, another increase in June will mean that prices ruling in the second-half will be around 14 per cent higher and despite the seasonally worse period the group is looking for a fairly sharp recovery for the rest of the year. Elsewhere, agrochemicals whose profits have marked time at £3.1m was also disappointing with growth in new products like Norton only just enough to offset the effect of bad weather conditions on the commodity herbicides. Still, a reversal in the traditional seasonal earnings pattern should enable Fisons to reach £19m for the year with Gallenkamp's four month contribution chipping in a further £2m, against last year's £1.6m. Even so, ignoring the deferred tax boost, earnings of around 35p a share implies no growth for a couple of years so despite yesterday's bear closing to leave Fisons 2p higher at 350p the shares have only trading attractions.

A new round has begun in the jolly knockabout wealth tax contest. On my left, those strongly in favour—the TUC, the Labour Party, Dr Jeremy Bray, Labour MP for Motherwell and Wishaw; Mr John Berr; the Inland Revenue Staff Federation (in an entirely selfless and disinterested way, of course); and now Mr John Pardoe, MP and the Liberal Party for which he is spokesman on economic affairs.

On my right, those against—the 1975 Wealth Tax Select Committee (some of them); all the national heritage groups (passionately); the Government (pragmatically); and its own supporters (happy without one); and now the Confederation of British Industry.

You might be forgiven for wondering why this solemn debate should persist after a select committee has had two years ago considered masses of time and paper pondering the problem for the alleged benefit of the nation. One answer is that the select committee failed to agree, divided itself along party political lines and, in the end, provided no less than five reports, the received party versions and one extremist position thrown in for good measure and to prevent you from falling asleep.

One other conceivable answer is that there is an important principle involved: that the proposed switch from income, profits and capital gains as tax bases to that of personal net assets (which is what is meant by "wealth") is of fundamental social and/or economic importance; and it could be the tool of "redistribution", so transforming Britain into an economically successful, classless, egalitarian and therefore superior desirable nation.

That, apparently, the Liberal Party, although the Liberals also advocate much more—a transfer of the burden of taxation from income to expenditure; a payroll tax to replace existing national insurance contributions; unification of different taxes; a credit system to give everyone a guaranteed minimum income; self-assessment; excisions tax in place of capital transfer tax; abolition of stamp duty; a new and decentralized system of local government finance; indexation of the whole system;

is, perhaps, the contribution to the United Kingdom balance of payments.

For 1975-76 this contribution was about £160m (against £38m in 1969-70 and £60m in 1973-74) excluding materials. When added to the overseas earnings of consulting engineers, architects and surveyors the total comes to about £340m.

Nevertheless, the levels for new contracts are likely to make gloomy, if predictable, reading for the industry.

Mr Bobby McAlpine, chairman of the EGCI, said last week: "Growth overseas has not accelerated as we would have wished. Most of the companies could take on more work. It is not as easy now as it was two, or three years ago, when the Middle East was really booming, for us to get work on the right terms."

The Department of Environment figures, due to be published in the next few weeks, are also expected to highlight the relative lack of success achieved by the hard-pressed medium and small companies in winning potentially lucrative work abroad.

It now seems probable that this "disappointing" total will be revised downwards. Moreover, provisional figures for 1976-77 widely expected to show little or no improvement in real terms.

Such are the delays in concluding contracts and the large sums of money involved, that it would be wrong to read too much into the overall picture. As the industry points out, a more significant statistic

is, perhaps, the contribution to the United Kingdom balance of payments.

Those who remember the international motor racing successes of Jaguar 20 years ago—the D-type won the Le Mans 24-hour race three times—will note with sadness Leyland Cars' decision announced yesterday to withdraw its two Jaguar 5.3-litre coupes from this year's European touring car championship.

Money, apparently, has been no object in trying to reestablish Jaguar as a force to be reckoned with in the status-symbol world of racing (some observers reckon Leyland has spent more than £1m, but that has been disappointing on almost every outing).

Leyland's motor sport department denies that the continuing poor financial state of the company has caused the withdrawal. Bad luck, in the form of punctures and spins, is blamed for the cars' bad performance and the company admits that their prospects in the past three rounds of the championship in France and Spain are not good. Being beaten by slower BMWs does nothing to boost the Jaguars' image.

Meanwhile, the Jaguar racing team of Derek Bell, Andy Rowse, John Fitzpatrick and Tim Shenken, all successful international drivers, have been freed from their contracts which are due to expire at the end of the year.

Wealth tax: suggestions too naive to be taken seriously?

Oliver Stanley discusses some of the proposals contained in the interim report on taxation to be presented to this week's Liberal Assembly at Brighton and prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr John Pardoe, MP

and, oh, while we are about it, let's have a wealth tax too, shall we?

Most other European countries have one, so why not us? You see, people have been discouraged from using their wealth "to its most productive potential" because we leave unproductive wealth untaxed!

All that represents a breathless ambitious programme and at present rates of progress would take about 15 years to implement. Most of the assorted ingredients are familiar and have been the subject of debate recently, which may be why Mr Pardoe does not feel the need to argue any of them in depth.

To state, as he does, that an "access to tax would encourage the distribution of...wealth among a greater number of people" without conceding that should be so, is unconvincing.

As to wealth tax, it is difficult to take seriously a case resting on such simplistic and naive propositions—that a wealth tax would stop people from tying up the odd £30,000 in Rolls-Royces. Mr Pardoe fails to address himself to the weightier counter-arguments marshalled in the select committee evidence and report and now presented by the Confederation of British Industry.

There is, in particular, the threat to private business, created by the inevitable withdrawal of working capital, the existing high rates of capital taxation on death; the fallacies of the redistributive theory;

the administrative burden of collection; the valuation problems; and the damage that would be done to business incentive and risk taking.

Mr Pardoe believes that there is in Britain a dangerously low birth rate of small companies, but fails to recognize that under a wealth tax fewer such companies would ever be conceived.

The problem is mainly one of cash flow. Successful businesses are often taxed at 83 per cent, leaving £17 in the £100 for wealth tax. Where would this class of entrepreneur find the cash for new ventures?

There must be a severe problem where rates of return on capital are low, in for example farming because of relatively high land values and throughout the smaller for-profit states of business development. This is the stage which makes a significant contribution to national productivity and employment.

These are the classes of business already under threat from capital transfer tax.

Mr Pardoe would presumably reply that he is arguing for substitutive wealth taxation as a means of reducing other taxes. He justifies wealth tax on the grounds that these reductions would become politically possible if a wealth tax were brought in, implying that such reductions could then be sold to the Liberal Party.

Here Mr Pardoe is out of date. So many workers are themselves now under such pressure from higher rate

income taxation that they need no sweeteners to concede a reduction.

Anyway, substitutive taxation may sound attractive in theory, but such is the persistent search for sources of additional national revenue that in practice it rarely works. The reduced or abolished taxes tend to reappear under new labels in the following year's Budget speech. A wealth tax could never produce sufficient yield to permit any significant reduction in the rate of income tax, so why substitute a new and expensive tax for a relatively well-established one?

None of these counter-arguments is conclusive, but any political party with serious claims to have formulated its taxation policies must be aware of them and be ready with a reply.

You can also make out a case for a wealth tax which exempts productive assets, but then there is also an overwhelming case for the similar exemption of national heritage assets—pictures, houses, books, outstanding land, the art treasures whose survival in Britain is also indisputably at risk. There is also a case for exemption of domestic residences, public service pension rights, government stocks and what-have-you.

In fact, the special pleading for exemption soon begins to embrace every class of asset which might conceivably be caught.

The Liberal Party document neglects to mention these basic problems. It baldly asserts the need for a wealth tax on wealth above £50,000, a low threshold

which at present inflation rates would bring in almost everyone who owns the equity of redemption to his house, enjoys pension rights and has a bob or two in savings.

Why? Why on earth seek to introduce a whole new broad anbit tax, which clobbers almost everyone, when most of us are baffled and reeling from the multigigorous taxes we have already got? We need less, not more.

The only possible conclusion is that Mr Pardoe and all who advocate wealth taxes believe that a knock-the-rich formula will win votes from all those who have not got £50,000 and that this is therefore a recipe for political success.

Such opportunism deserves to fail and it surely will. The British electorate are not that daft and new taxes are not now a prescription for popularity. The Tories are on to a better electoral bet in promising overall drastic tax rate reductions, without bothering too much about varying the small print.

But the most attractive promise any political party might now make is to offer to address itself not to the creation of new taxes, but to the more efficient management of the present tax system, fast becoming one of the sacred cows of Britain.

Our Tax Inspectors (like policemen) used to be wonderful but are no longer. The methods adopted for the legislation of tax law in the Commons are manifestly inadequate. This year's Finance Bill debates serve as sufficient example.

The process of assessment and collection is wasteful, complex, unjust and causing widespread grievances; the capacity of the subject to redress those grievances by appeal also needs to be improved, as a recent case shows. A politician who tackled these awkward topics would become a folk hero overnight.

Mr Pardoe has a little time left, so far, he has produced only an interim abbreviated report for debate at the Liberal Assembly in Brighton. His final report will be completed after and in the light of that debate, so he still has a chance to secure a modicum of fame...

* Incentive Taxation, The Liberal Party, 25p.
** Wealth Tax: The Industry View, CBI, £1.00.

John Huxley

The construction industry's export build-up falters

OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION WORK BY BRITISH COMPANIES (£m CURRENT PRICES)

	Total value of new contracts in the year ended:			Total value of work done in the year ended:			Total value of work outstanding at:		
	March 1974	March 1975	March 1976	March 1974	March 1975	March 1976	March 1974	March 1975	March 1976
Europe	62	164	151	57	72	89	77	166	230
Asia	23	559	599	78	181	389	216	617	833
Africa	138	258	491	127	115	127	144	202	580
America	54	72	83	62	52	64	33	54	56
Oceania	75	70	99	57	55	74	121	134	180
World total of which:	554	1,223	1,433	369	467	875	591	1,253	1,859
EEC	8	41	16	11	21	25	15	38	31
Middle East (in Asia and Africa)	211	531	586	62	146	386	198	558	788

* Provisional
Source: Trade and Industry

countries last year, more than 25 per cent by value went to 20 companies and 73 per cent to only six. The indications are that this pattern will again be evident in the 1976-77 figures.

In recent years the industry, along with the Department of Trade's Construction Exports Advisory Board, established in 1975, has strenuously tried to improve its overseas performance, but it has discovered that the winning and completing of contracts is becoming increasingly difficult.

Despite expansion in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Australasia, the development programmes of the newly-rich Middle East States still offer the best opportunities. In 1975, 76 per cent of the source of about £570m worth of new

work and estimates suggest that between 55 and 60 per cent of capital spending in the region is accounted for by construction. But the fast pace of construction in the area has slowed somewhat from what it was a year or two ago and it will continue to do so.

The Middle East has become a highly competitive market for British contractors and consultants remains high, but the challenge from other nations has intensified. Some rivals are traditional—Western European countries, for example, who are building on an established presence to compensate for a slump in domestic demand, like Britain. Others are heavyweight newcomers.

South Korea, in particular, has had enormous success in the Middle East, picking up an estimated £3,000m worth of contracts in the past two or three years. There have been reports that the Koreans have been undercutting on tenders by as much as 25 per cent, helped by hefty foreign currency concessions from the Korean Government and by their ability to mobilize their own regimented workforce on overseas construction sites when other nations, like Britain, have to face the problems of recruiting, housing and directing indigenous or more probably, imported labour.

British companies have also found themselves required to work within a harsh contractual framework. Despite unpredictable local inflation rates, fixed price contracts are the norm. Financially burdensome and politically sensitive unconditional guarantees have to be provided.

Continuing discussions are being held with the Export Credits Guarantee Department to investigate ways in which risk cover can be provided for contractors, especially those

involved in large, multi-discipline "jumbo" projects. Industry and government representatives are now examining the issue in conjunction with Bank of England officials.

Little wonder, then, that small and medium-size companies trying to break into the overseas market have found the guidance offered by agencies like the EGCI.

The rewards may be alluring, but the risks are many. They were illustrated recently by the experience of Tarmac, a company with wide overseas experience, which announced the provision of £12m against expected losses on two big Nigerian contracts.

As Mr Iain Ross, director of EGCI, explained: "Conditions in, say, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia are horrendous enough for someone who has been getting his knees brown for 20 years. Let alone someone who has never before been east of Watford."

To the harsh physical and commercial environment must be added the problems of coping with the complexities of different cultures, currencies, customs, laws, bureaucratic processes and political immponderables and of labour shortages, transport bottlenecks and scarcity of materials.

Teaming up with an indigenous company of long-standing and integrity obviously helps, but success remains far from easy.

Mr George Hazell, deputy chairman and managing director of Taylor Woodrow, made the point recently: "It's simply no good for some company executive to go 'jetting in' on news of a contract, making a few calls and then go jetting out. Much of our business has depended on a process of building up confidence, and mutual trust, which is quite clearly something that cannot be done overnight."

Another cheerful economic indicator: In the first six months of this year the British imported, and then drank or laid down, some 3.4 million bottles of champagne, half as many more than in the same period of last year. And Britain retains its position as number one customer for champagne.

Our quotations are well read.

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Business Diary: Saleswomanship at the WI • Volvo and Gyllenhammar



Volvo's Pehr Gyllenhammar: what's his line?

be lucky if the questioning during his short stay here does not range rather more widely.

He will, no doubt, be asked how he plans to lead Volvo out of its present problems, sales being static in the first half of the year and pre-tax profits down 204m kroner (£24m) from 346m kroner.

Volvo's sluggish profitability seems to have been one reason behind the breakdown last month of the proposed merger between the motor company and the car and lorry maker, Saab-Scania.

* Addison-Wesley, £5.95.

Those who remember the international motor racing successes of Jaguar 20 years ago—the D-type won the Le Mans 24-hour race three times—will note with sadness Leyland Cars' decision announced yesterday to withdraw its two Jaguar 5.3-litre coupes from this year's European touring car championship.

Money, apparently, has been no object in trying to reestablish Jaguar as a force to be reckoned with in the status-symbol world of racing (some observers reckon Leyland has spent more than £1m, but that has been disappointing on almost every outing).

Leyland's motor sport department denies that the continuing poor financial state of the company has caused the withdrawal. Bad luck, in the form of punctures and spins, is blamed for the cars' bad performance and the company admits that their prospects in the past three rounds of the championship in France and Spain are not good. Being beaten by slower BMWs does nothing to boost the Jaguars' image.

Meanwhile, the Jaguar racing team of Derek Bell, Andy Rowse, John Fitzpatrick and Tim Shenken, all successful international drivers, have been freed from their contracts which are due to expire at the end of the year.

The Jaguar racing venture was launched with a fanfare at the start of 1976, but it was not until the autumn that the cars first raced. Their last appearance was this month at Silverstone, when Leyland's spokesman said, they clearly had "massive public support".

The company said that it will continue with the rest of its motor racing activities and announce its 1978 programme at the end of the year. The racing Jaguars, however, "will not figure in future competitions".

John A. Young is likely to emerge as the chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, the California electronics company, probably next May.

This is when the company's cofounder, William R. Hewlett, will reach 65 and it is thought, relinquish the chief executive's job, although remaining as chairman of the executive committee.

Hewlett is meanwhile handing over his presidency and role as chief operating officer to Young, an executive vice-president and director for the past three years.

David Packard, Hewlett's cofounder, is already 65 and comfortably ensconced as chairman of the board, a position he shows no sign of relinquishing. Hewlett and Packard, who

had both been electronics students at Stanford University, California, founded their business in nearby Palo Alto. For the first time since 1939 the two grandfathers of the American electronics business will be handing over day-to-day running of their company to somebody else.

Young, who is 45, joined in 1958 via the approved route, having just received his master's degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is likely to be in this country early in the new year, when he and Hewlett or Packard pay a visit.

The company employs 1,100 people here, mostly in sales and servicing, but a factory at South Queensferry, near Edinburgh, which employs 200 is Hewlett-Packard's world headquarters for the design and manufacture of telecommunications test equipment. Last year 85 per cent was exported—much of it to the United States.

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

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Europa

Why the EEC taxpayer must buy food which will never be consumed and wine that will never be drunk

Land of too much milk and honey

The European Community will remain a land of milk and honey for years to come, at least in agricultural terms, with butter, cheese, milk-powder and sugar mountains and vine lakes.

But for the inhabitants of the nine member countries of the Community the sad thing is that, while they have to pay for this idyllic state of affairs (out of their taxes), they derive no benefit from it, except perhaps the sight of the huge national cold-stores.

Paradoxically, countries outside this superabundant Community do not want to know about its heaped-up agricultural goodies either. They are only prepared to "buy" a part of the surplus at giveaway prices, after the European taxpayers—who have already paid for storing the unwanted commodities—have dug into their pockets again. A recent example was the Community's 200,000-ton butter deal with Moscow.

This is to put it bluntly—the economic nonsense which is called, in official parlance, "regulation of the European agricultural markets". This will not change much in the next few years, as the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels admits in its latest report. As the dry bureaucratic language puts it: "Despite the measures taken at Community level, butter stocks will rise, reaching at least 300,000 tons in 1977; they will be even higher by the end of 1978." In practical terms this means that in the coming year at least one kilogram of butter will be in the freezer for every person in the nine.

No one in Brussels knows the answer. The billions spent on the "white flood" go unremarked, and the Community bureaucrats' conclusions offer little comfort.

Nor is the Community out-look any better for sugar, which only a few years ago was in short supply. According to the calculations of the Brussels agricultural experts: "The structural surplus in sugar means that there is a danger in coming years of reaching a level (some three million tons) which will not be easy to dispose of in a world market characterized by considerable overproduction."

There is at least a consolation for Europeans who do not make their living from sugar production: disposing of the surplus will be relatively cheap, from the taxpayer's point of view.

This is because—unlike the butter and milk powder markets—there is no unlimited obligation on the authorities to purchase. The guaranteed price for sugar only applies for fixed quotas, which are set annually and related to forecast consumption.

The forecasts are—not least because of the influence of the powerful European sugar lobby—always rather higher than actually seems justified; the subsidies are, however, quite reasonable by comparison with the huge expenditure on the milk market.

The situation is different for cereals: stocks are large and increasing, and prices are by contrast low. But all this does nothing to help the European man in the street (especially the stock levels); because the authorities are committed (regulation of the

market in cereals) to buy up everything reaching a given quality, at a fixed price, events on the international markets have virtually no effect on the average consumer.

Not even cheap supplies from outside the Community can alter things, as the difference between a possibly low price on the world market and the prescribed Community regulation price is "skimmed off" at the Community's borders.

In future months even the consolation of a glass of wine will be rather dubious: there will certainly be enough wine from this year's harvest alone of acceptable quality (provided the weather does not alter the picture completely), but the effects linger of last year's European intervention in the wine market. In the words of Brussels: "In view of the high level of wine stocks, appropriate measures are required to rectify the market position, even given average production."

"Appropriate measures" in this case involves buying up wine (which could not otherwise find a market) under the rules of regulation of the wine market.

These are certainly gloomy prospects for the European agricultural market. Those concerned in agricultural policy maintain, however, that the European system of regulated markets—quite apart from its larger role in extending European integration—has brought about a previously unknown security of supply. This "secure supply" has meanwhile grown into massive oversupply, with the associated costs.

F. O. Steinschulte

Willis Faber Limited

Interim Report



Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Julian Faber

The unaudited pre-tax profits of Willis Faber Limited and its subsidiary companies for the first six months of 1977 amounted to £10.8m, an increase of 26% on the figure of £8.6m for the first half of 1976.

All classes of income—brokerage, underwriting fees and commissions, investment income, profits of Sovereign, share of profits of associated companies—showed an improvement over the period. It is especially satisfying to be able to report that in our experience the volume of business

coming to the London market from overseas has been particularly buoyant, and that the increase in our profit on such business owes nothing this year, as it did last year, to movements adverse to sterling on the foreign exchange markets.

While results for the first half-year are not a reliable guide to those of the full year, I anticipate that we will continue to make satisfactory progress.

Having reached the normal age of retirement, I shall be stepping down at the end of the year. I think it is fair to say that the six years of my Chairmanship have been eventful ones. They have seen, amongst other things, the establishment of our two freehold office buildings, namely our London headquarters at Ten Trinity Square and our new County Head Office at Friars Street, Ipswich, which between them should take care of the Company's accommodation requirements for the foreseeable future. These years have also witnessed a very considerable growth in our business, and last year saw the successful introduction of our Company's shares on The London Stock Exchange. These events, and much else besides, have been the direct result of team effort, and it is to a very strong team that I shall now be handing over.

The Board of Willis Faber Limited announce unaudited results for the Group for the six months ended June 30, 1977.

	6 Months Ending 30 June 1977	6 Months Ending 30 June 1976	Year Ending 31 Dec 1976
Profit before taxation	£10.8	£8.6	16.32
Taxation	(5.81)	(4.71)	(8.89)
Extraordinary items	5.02	3.89	7.63
Minority interests	(.01)	—	(.39)
Profit attributable to the members of the Company	5.16	4.01	7.24
Dividends:			
Preference	.05	.05	.10
Interim	1.15	.46	.46
Final	1.20	.51	2.00
Earnings per share	12.40p	9.61p	18.83p

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.87p (1.15p) payable on 18th November, 1977, to shareholders registered at the close of business on 28th October, 1977. The dividend will carry a tax credit of 1.48p per share. An interim dividend equivalent to 2.1p net (gross 3.78p) per share was paid prior to

the listing last November of the Company's shares on The Stock Exchange. The qualifying share capital at that time was £46,000. £1.4 Ordinary shares out of a total issued Ordinary share capital of £1.1 million, and the dividend paid was £1.1 (100%) per Ordinary share.

Willis Faber Limited
Ten Trinity Square, London EC3P 3AX

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilts blaze: best day for shares in 9 months

The prospect of an IMF approved stimulus to the economy in the near future sparked both equities and gilts to life as the institutions made their presence felt. Though the FT index closed 16.6 up at 521.2, the best day for more than nine months, the session belonged to gilts which closed as much as £3 higher having stood £4 to the good in earlier trading.

The reference by the IMF managing director to Britain's "really astonishing success" over the past year put the fixed-interest market in good heart from the outset. Long dated gilts, such as the 10 1/2% 1982, rose 1/2% to 107 1/2, while the 10 1/2% 1987 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 1992 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 1997 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2002 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2007 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2012 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2017 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2022 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2027 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2032 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2037 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2042 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2047 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2052 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2057 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2062 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2067 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2072 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 2077 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. 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The 10 1/2% 3332 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3337 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3342 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3347 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3352 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3357 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3362 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3367 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3372 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3377 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3382 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3387 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3392 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3397 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3402 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3407 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3412 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3417 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3422 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3427 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3432 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3437 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3442 rose 1/2% to 107 1/2. The 10 1/2% 3447 rose 1/2% to



ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

Staff Vacancies

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts in the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Lagos, Nigeria

A. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

1. Principal Officer

B. ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

1. Director of Administration
2. Principal Officer (Administration)
3. Senior Officer (Administration)

C. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Director of Finance
2. Chief Accountant
3. Senior Accountant

D. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Post: Director

E. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND MONETARY MATTERS

1. Director
2. Principal Officer (Trade)
3. Principal Officer (Customs)
4. Principal Officer (Immigration)
5. Senior Officer (Trade)
6. Senior Officer (Customs)
7. Senior Officer (Immigration)
8. Senior Officer (Money & Payments)

F. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

1. Director
2. Principal Officer (Transport)
3. Principal Officer (Telecommunications)
4. Principal Officer (Energy)

5. Senior Officer (Transport)
6. Senior Officer (Telecommunications)
7. Senior Officer (Energy)

G. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Director
2. Senior Officer (Agriculture and Natural Resources)
3. Senior Officer (Industries)

H. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

1. Director
2. Principal Officer (Data)
3. Principal Officer (Projects)
4. Principal Officer (Special Duties)
5. Senior Officer (Data)
6. Senior Officer (Special Duties)

QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates should possess a good University degree or Professional qualification in any of the following disciplines which must be relevant to the posts they are applying for:

Economics (specialising in Financial Management, Financial Analysis, Project Evaluation, Industrial Planning and Development), Statistics, Social Sciences, Business Administration, Public Administration, Mathematics, Operational Research, Law, Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Engineering or allied disciplines, Transport and Accountancy.

They should, in addition, have considerable and relevant post-qualification experience. Working knowledge of both English and French languages will be an added advantage.

DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

The appointee will head an appropriate department of the Secretariat and will be responsible, under the general supervision and control of a Deputy Executive Secretary, for initiating policies and programmes bearing in mind the overall policies of the Community, ensuring that policies relating to his department are implemented efficiently and with despatch; and for the day-to-day administration of his department. He shall, in particular,

be responsible for the general supervision and control of the employees in his department; the co-ordination of the activities of all divisions/sections of the department, control of expenditure in the department and offering advice on all issues relating to the department.

DUTIES OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

The Principal Officer will head a Division and will be responsible to the Director of his department for the effective and efficient running of his Division.

DUTIES OF SENIOR OFFICERS

He will be head of a section and will be responsible to the Principal Officer of his Division, assisting him in the performance of his duties.

SALARIES

- (1) Director (D1: US\$22,335-US\$24,630)
- (2) Principal Officer, Chief Accountant (P4: US\$16,684-US\$19,618)
- (3) Senior Officer (P3: US\$14,091-US\$16,105)

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Conditions of Service include fringe benefits like Education

Grant for four children; Dependency Allowance and other appropriate fringe benefits.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Six copies of application with six copies of detailed curriculum vitae of the applicant stating date and place of birth, nationality, past and present employment and academic and employment history with dates, current basic salary, allowances, etc.; photo-stat copies of certificates and testimonials, names and addresses of two referees who are not relatives; should be addressed to the:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES,
P.M.B. 12745, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

not later than 30th September, 1977. Envelopes should be clearly marked at the top left hand corner "ECOWAS application for employment".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND INTERVIEW

Only applicants considered suitable for employment will receive acknowledgement and invitations to attend interviews.

A. D. OUATTARA
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Appointments Vacant



General Merchandise Manager

(Male or Female)

Selective Marketplace is a new company which runs special offers for The Sunday Times and The Times. We require a high calibre Merchandise Manager (male or female) to complete our team.

Ideally you will be a graduate with several years' successful experience dealing with fast moving consumer goods and a knowledge of the market of consumer durables. Possession of a marketing advertising direct mail qualification will be helpful.

We offer a salary in excess of £4,000 p.a., generous holidays and the benefits associated with a large company.

Please write, giving full career details, to: The Employment Manager, Times Newspapers Limited, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

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WE CAN HELP YOU TO: IMPROVE your career prospects, gain a new or 2nd career, change your job, cope with redundancy, whatever your age or position, contact the leading Guidance organisation.

CAREER ANALYSTS
90 Chancery Place, W.1.
01-435 5432 (24 hrs.)

CLERKS

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Ring Manpower,
930 0044

The Law Society

Solicitor-Legal Aid

Birmingham

Applications are invited from solicitors for the Legal Aid post of Deputy Local Secretary, in Birmingham.

The salary range is £4,552-£7,819 per annum. Commencing salary may be above the minimum depending on personal qualities, age and general experience.

There are good prospects of promotion to higher grade appointments. The terms of service include a contributory superannuation scheme, regular increments and four weeks' annual leave.

Write in confidence (by 5th October) giving full details of experience, employment record, present salary and date available to: The Secretary-General, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL.

GENERAL VACANCIES

RUSSIAN TRANSLATORS, full-time/ part-time, experienced, qualified translators, English into Russian (Russian mother tongue); excellent rates; permanent; no agency fees; send C.V. and letter giving full details to Box 2507 J, The Times.

GENERAL VACANCIES

EXPERIENCED GIRL OR TEACHER over 21 for French family living in Central London in home after two shifts 8 and 9. From 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday to Friday. No salary but free board and lodging, petrol, room and bath. Please send C.V. and letter giving full details to Box 2507 J, The Times.

JUDY FARQUHARSON LTD.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ADVISER

Qualified and experienced Personnel Manager for fast moving W.I. Company. With complete knowledge of new and old laws. Salary £7,000-£10,000.

CONSUMER MARKET RESEARCHER

With good experience in performance appraisal, packaging, advertising, sampling and statistics, etc. for London based firm. Salary £6,000.

17 Stratton St., W.1.

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY MONEYBROKERS

have vacancies for male or female

TRAINEE BROKERS

AGE 20-30 Successful applicants will be offered a salary and commission package. Negotiating in fast moving market.

Telephone Miss O'Connor on 01-239 5153

MANAGEMENT

Produce branch of leading employment agency based at City. Experienced person to act as Manager/Assistant. The successful person will be responsible for sales and have the ability to manage people. Knowledge of both temporary and permanent placements is an advantage. Salary and generous commission.

Ring 734 0017

Pathfinders offer the following positions available now:

FILM PRODUCER

We are looking for a serious-minded P.D. Secretary who can help the busy, over-worked producer to manage his day and night at the end of it. You'll need to be efficient, organised, and able to handle the producer's personal and professional life.

ADVERTISING MAN

We need someone to keep things from falling apart while the producer is away. You'll be in contact with people from all levels. You'll be in contact with people from all levels. You'll be in contact with people from all levels.

PATHFINDERS 629 3132

ADVERTISING, P.R., FILMS, MUSIC AND T.V.

And the look-out for Permanent and Temporary Staff. P.A. SECRETARIES, TYPISTS AND RECEPTIONISTS who want to move in these fields.

PATHFINDERS

Staff Bureau
20 Market Street, W.1
(1 min. Oxford Circus Tube)

ADMINISTRATORS

GRADUATES

SECRETARY/PA'S

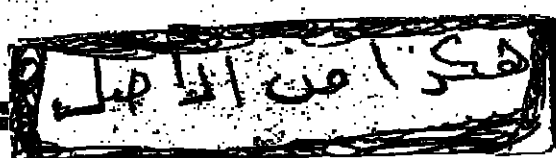
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For your next move...
£6,000 plus Appointments
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Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary & Part Time Vacancies

LA CREME DE LA CREME

THE PRINCESS GRACE HOSPITAL Nottingham Place, W.1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Is required for the administration of this new Private Hospital, recently opened by N.S.H. Princess Grace of Monaco. The successful candidate will be a first class administrative assistant, with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the hospital, including the management of the staff, the reception of patients, and the general administration of the hospital. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the hospital, including the management of the staff, the reception of patients, and the general administration of the hospital. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the hospital, including the management of the staff, the reception of patients, and the general administration of the hospital.

Tel: Miss Howell, 01-487 5237 or 485 8274

EXPANDING W.1. LITIGATION SOLICITORS require 3 Shortland Secretaries

Preferably with legal experience. 20-25. Salary to £3,500 a.s.e. Over 3 weeks holiday. L.V. Lunchroom room. Fringe benefits. Interesting work and friendly staff.

Telephone 01-580 8821
Reference M.P.T.

FILM DIRECTOR/ MANAGING DIRECTOR

of expanding International W.1. advertisement company requires an experienced SECRETARY. First class basic skills must be available to negotiate and organise and be the back bone of a very busy and motivated team of 20 staff. Top salary negotiable. £4,000+.

TELEPHONE MRS. CUTHBERT
01-528 3001

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ASSISTANT

£4,000 p.a. plus L.V's. Director of International Company in Kensington seeks a first class Assistant with excellent secretarial skills, presentable appearance, and friendly personality. Successful applicant would have total job involvement and own initiative.

Tel. Sonia Kelly 490 8757
N-TYPE STAFF BUREAU
71 NEW BOND ST. W.1.

SEC./P.A.

£4,000 + FREE LUNCH. To work for Public Relations Co. for the Senior Director. Must be totally involved in the interesting and demanding job which requires meeting with the press and other media.

Janet Davis, 496 1576
ALFRED MARKS STAFF BUREAU

ADMIN/SEC £3,500-£4,000

Two young W.1. secretaries need an experienced P.A. to handle all the day to day running of the office. Must be prepared to work on a flexible basis. Knowledge of German and/or French essential.

Ring Daphne, 240 5464
Alangate Agency

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Of Research Company P.A. handles all the day to day running of the office. Must be prepared to work on a flexible basis. Knowledge of German and/or French essential.

Phyllis Day, 628 6886
Alfred Marks Staff Bureau

MUSIC BUSINESS SECRETARY/P.A.

Managing Director of Music Business Company requires a secretary/p.a. with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Call Daphne on 723 8434
10 am to 5 pm

VICE-PRESIDENT

Needs Secretary/P.A. to deal with personal enquiries mainly with the press. Must be prepared to work on a flexible basis. Knowledge of German and/or French essential.

Maureen Fawcett, 628 0111
Alfred Marks Staff Bureau

CHAIRMAN

Of Overseas Publishing Company needs Secretary/P.A. to handle all the day to day running of the office. Must be prepared to work on a flexible basis. Knowledge of German and/or French essential.

Maureen Fawcett, 628 0111
Alfred Marks Staff Bureau

SECRETARY/ P.A.

One of the Partners in the West End office of a long established firm of Chartered Surveyors requires an experienced, well educated Secretary/P.A. aged 25 to 30. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus cover in the profits, free BUPA policy, 40p L.V. and 4 weeks holiday.

Please ring 01-236 7804
for further details.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Of Overseas Company requires an experienced PERSONAL SECRETARY, interesting and varied work dealing with overseas and English clients.

Salary £2,500 approx.
Please telephone:
487 4656/4649

INVENTIONS £4,000

This money could be yours if you are a top class, experienced Secretary aged between 27 and 40, in a newly created role in the Financial Secretary to the Financial Director. Priority of interests, excellent salary, and a very interesting and varied work.

Ring Maureen Dunnett,
Victoria at St. James's
1 Scutcheon, Ground, S.W.1
1 mile, St. James's Park Tube

FINANCIAL MARKETING CONSULTANT KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Requires a Secretary/Assistant aged 25-30, with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Susan Hamilton Personnel,
33 St. George's St. W.1.
01-499 5406/4236.

STEPPING STONES

PICK OF THE WEEK
£3,200 NEG + BONUS
No one to touch this job. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

71 New Bond Street, London W.1
01-493 6456

adpower randstad Staff Consultants

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£2,000 ISH + BONUS
There's a plenty of variety and lots of job involvement working for two people in the advertising industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

71 New Bond Street, London W.1
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adpower randstad Staff Consultants

CITY ECONOMIC
GROUP
requires young assistant or secretary with good typing and ability to assist with the day to day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Susan Hamilton Personnel,
33 St. George's St. W.1.
01-499 5406/4236.

SECRETARY KNIGHTSBRIDGE

To work for young International Finance team, accurate typing, own office, IBM terminal, salary up to £2,500 plus 25% bonus, 40p L.V.

Maureen Fawcett, 628 0111
Alfred Marks Staff Bureau

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Office Junior bright enough to see the team and also with the day to day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Maureen Fawcett, 628 0111
Alfred Marks Staff Bureau

SECRETARY/PA

Working for Director of company who can cope with the day to day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Maureen Fawcett, 628 0111
Alfred Marks Staff Bureau

SECRETARIAL

P.A./SEC./DRIVER

needed by young Director of City-based Co. for a range of secretarial and driving duties. Must be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

JAYGAR
CAREERS
JAYGAR 730 5148

This advertisement which appeared recently in La Creme de la Creme brought over 20 telephone enquiries. 7 applicants were interviewed and 3 shortlisted for the Client. The Client was delighted and now has the PA/Sec/Driver he needs!

If you want results like this...
Phone THE TIMES Appointments Team
ON

01-278-9161

NON-SECRETARIAL

adventure

An interview for a young man with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Ring Maureen Dunnett,
Victoria at St. James's
1 Scutcheon, Ground, S.W.1
1 mile, St. James's Park Tube

EXPORT LIAISON EXECUTIVE (Eastern Europe)

Starting £3,000-£4,000 p.a. for Headquarters of highly successful export group (S.W.1) with established contacts in Eastern Europe. Applications are invited from experienced executives with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Ring Maureen Dunnett,
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1 Scutcheon, Ground, S.W.1
1 mile, St. James's Park Tube

FINANCIAL MARKETING CONSULTANT KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Requires a Secretary/Assistant aged 25-30, with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

Susan Hamilton Personnel,
33 St. George's St. W.1.
01-499 5406/4236.

RECEPTIONIST RESIDENTIAL CLUB

Residential Club with 100 bedrooms, in S.W.1, requires a Receptionist with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

71 New Bond Street, London W.1
01-493 6456

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT (new age)

for a large company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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PERSONNEL ASSISTANT (new age)

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PROJECT ASSISTANT (19+)

for a large company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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TELEVISION EDITOR

for a large company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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SECRETARIAL

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR AND SECRETARY

£2,250 p.a. + Commission. Here's a chance to really use your first class secretarial skills in an interesting and demanding environment. You'll become heavily involved with travel companies, liaison with clients, and the day to day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

PERSONNEL: ROYAL LANCASTER HOTEL,
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Tel: 01-262 6737.

LEGAL LUXURY RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

£3,500. A luxurious and exciting environment for a first class Receptionist/Secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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PERSONAL SECRETARY to Managing Director

British Museum Publications Ltd. A company wholly owned by the trustees of the British Museum. For details and an application form apply to Miss Lefevre, British Museum Publications Ltd., 6, Bedford Sq., London WC2B 3HA, Tel. 01-235 1254.

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AUDIO SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT

We are looking for an organised and efficient secretary to assist a solicitor and deal with legal matters. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

PERSONNEL: ROYAL LANCASTER HOTEL,
LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE, LONDON, W.2 2TY.
Tel: 01-262 6737.

BILINGUAL DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY/P.A.

for a large company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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Ready for More Responsibility

at around £3,750? If you are a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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SPANISH? To £3,300

We have a busy and varied post for a first class Spanish speaking secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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WINE MERCHANTS

Buy Sales Director of small wine merchant requires a first class secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Seek career-minded person to join their marketing planning team. An exciting position with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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SECRETARY FOR PROFESSOR OF Pharmacology and his staff

for a large company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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PERSONALITY PLUS

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GROUP CO-ORDINATOR AND SECRETARY

£2,250 p.a. + Commission. Here's a chance to really use your first class secretarial skills in an interesting and demanding environment. You'll become heavily involved with travel companies, liaison with clients, and the day to day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, including the management of the staff, the reception of clients, and the general administration of the company.

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